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NEARBY

Traffic police, schools spar over bus parking

BENGALURU

The traffic police and school managements across the city have gotten into a tussle over traffic problems caused by school buses parked on roads near schools. Over 800 schools have been served notices by the police. While the police have ordered that schools which do not have ample parking space for their buses as well as parents' vehicles should hire other spaces for the same, schools say that implementing this will not be feasible.

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OPPORTUNITIES ▸ PAGE 5

Can promises of 'irrational' poll freebies be curbed, SC asks govt.

Issue must be tackled at the State level, says Sibal

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on July 26 orally asked the Centre to find out from the Finance Commission whether there is a way to curb political parties from promising and distributing "irrational freebies" during election campaigns.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana flagged the issue as "serious" and asked for means to control the promise of "freebies" to entice voters. The court did not receive a clear-cut answer from Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj on the Centre's position. "You take a stand whether freebies should continue or not," the Chief Justice addressed Mr. Nataraj.

> EC cannot regulate state policies and decisions taken by the winning party when they form the government. Such an act, without enabling law provisions, would be an overreach of powers
> ELECTION COMMISSION
>
> Promise of irrational freebies is a serious issue. Why has the Centre not yet taken a stand on the issue? The government needs to consult the Finance Commission for suggestions
> SUPREME COURT

The Election Commission of India (ECI), on the other hand, chose a hands-off approach, as was evident from its affidavit which said "whether such policies are financially viable or its adverse effect on the economic health of the State is a question that has to be considered and decided by the voters of the State".

The court finally turned to senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who was present in the courtroom waiting for another case. "Mr. Sibal, you are an experienced Parliamentarian and a lawyer... Can you suggest something here. How to control these freebies?" the CJI asked.

Mr. Sibal said freebies was a "serious issue" and had to be tackled at the level of the States. It would be unfair to put the liability on the Centre. He suggested tapping into the expertise of the Finance Commission.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Spurious liquor claims 36 lives in dry Gujarat

40 battling for life; six persons held

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

As many as 36 people died after consuming spurious liquor in Botad district of Gujarat, where prohibition is in force.

Over 40 people are battling for life in various hospitals in Botad, Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad.

With several more still in a critical condition, the toll is expected to rise in what is being termed the worst hooch tragedy in the State in the past 10 years.

Preliminary investigation revealed that a few small-time bootleggers from different villages in Botad had made the spurious liquor by mixing water with methyl alcohol (methanol), which is highly poisonous, and sold it to villagers for ₹20 per pouch. The police have lodged multiple FIRs naming 14 people, including the six persons who have been arrested so far.

A hooch victim being brought to the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital. • VIJAY SONEJI

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Record bids on spectrum auction Day 1

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday received record bids worth ₹1.45 lakh crore on the first day of the largest-ever auction for 5G telecom airwaves, surpassing the expectations of bids worth ₹80,000 crore to ₹90,000 crore from the entire auction.

The auctions, wherein a total of 72,097.85 MHz (or 72 Ghz) of spectrum worth about ₹4.3 lakh crore has been put on sale, saw "active" participation from Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Adani Data Network.

The auctions will continue on Wednesday.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

No complaint of assault at pub: Mangaluru police

Security proceedings against those who created trouble

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

A day after a group of Bajrang Dal members allegedly created a ruckus at a pub in Mangaluru, the city police on Tuesday decided to initiate only security proceedings under Sections 107 and 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure as neither the affected students nor the pub management came forward to file a complaint.

"No complaint has been filed against the persons who created a ruckus. As a precautionary measure, we are initiating security proceedings," Commissioner of Police N. Shashi Kumar said. This implies that those involved will be asked to submit an undertaking of "good conduct".

Around 8 p.m. on Monday, a group of Bajrang Dal members reached Recycle Pub, off Balmatta Road, and asked the security personnel about the age of the 30-odd students partying inside. The pub manager then enquired with the students about their age. Soon, the students left the place, Mr. Kumar said.

"So far we have not heard of any students being assaulted inside the pub. The bouncer told us that the activists were outside the pub," Mr. Kumar said. The pub owner was based in Mumbai and the police have secured access to the CCTV footage of the premises.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Rooting out

Police use a road roller to destroy 62,461 liquor bottles seized in over 800 excise cases, in Vijayawada on Tuesday. • K.V.S. GIRI

ED quizzes Sonia again, Congress holds protests

India is now a police state, says Rahul

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for a second time in the money laundering case linked to National Herald newspaper.

The party's MPs, including Rahul Gandhi, staged a dharna near Parliament after they were prevented from marching down to the Rashtrapati Bhavan in protest against the "misuse" of investigative agencies.

"India has become a police state and [Prime Minister] Modi is king," he said. Similar protests were held across the country.

Ms. Gandhi, who was questioned for almost six hours and left the agency's headquarters just before 7 p.m., has been summoned again on Wednesday.

As soon as Ms. Gandhi, accompanied by her children Mr. Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, reached the ED headquarters, Congress MPs assembled in front of Mahatma Gandhi statue inside Parliament complex and took out a symbolic march, carrying a poster that read "Stop misuse of agencies".

Mr. Gandhi joined them as the Congress leaders widened their protests to include price rise and GST. When prevented from marching on to Rashtrapati Bhavan, he sat on the road in an impromptu dharna at Vijay Chowk.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Primary school enrolment age increased to six

The new rule will be applicable from the next academic year

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has increased the age of enrolment in primary schools from 5 years and 5 months to 6 years for all schools – government, government aided, and unaided. This will be applicable from the next academic year.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has withdrawn the orders of 2017, 2018, and 2020 on the age of enrolment. The new order issued on Tuesday said a child who enrols in a primary school should be of six years as of June 1 of that academic year. However, the order makes no mention of the cut-off age for pre-primary schools.

Since 2016-17, the government has issued five orders on the fixation of minimum age for school enrolment and the order on Tuesday is the sixth one.

The department has withdrawn the orders of 2017, 2018, and 2020 on the age of enrolment. • FILE PHOTO

Vishal R., Commissioner, Department of Public Instruction, said, "According to the RTE Act, 2009, the directions of the Government of India and the NEP 2020, children should be aged six by June 1 for Class I. We had submitted the proposal to the government as per this. Already, 21 States have done it. This age bracket will ensure that catch-up learning is proper among children of the appropriate age. This order will be applicable from the next academic year for all the schools."

He added that this rule would be strictly followed. "In case a child is 5-years-and-11-months old, he/she will have to wait for one year to enroll. However, some activists feared that increasing the enrolment age could drive children towards private schools since only a handful of government-run schools have pre-primary classes.

Niranjanaradhya V.P., development educationist, told to *The Hindu*, "In the absence of pre-primary classes in government schools, this kind of rule will lead to further decline in strength in such schools. Therefore, age 5+ should be the right for admission in government schools."

HC notice to Centre on Twitter's plea

Company has challenged content and account 'blocking orders' issued by MeitY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered issue of notice to the Central government on a petition filed by micro-blogging platform Twitter challenging the legality of a series of 'blocking orders' issued by authorities under the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000, either to block Twitter accounts or identified content of the accounts.

On Tuesday, the petition came up for hearing before a Bench of Justice Krishna S. Dixit, who adjourned further hearing till August 25 while allowing Twitter to submit, in a sealed cover, copies of the 'blocking orders', which are treated as confidential documents as per the law. The designated officer of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) had issued several 'blocking orders' since February 2021 asking Twitter to block tweets or accounts.

What is Section 69A of IT Act?

- It gives power to the Centre to direct any government agency or intermediary to block public access to any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource
- The direction can be issued when the government finds it necessary to do so in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognisable offence
- Such a power can be exercised by the authorised officer by giving the reasons in writing
- The intermediary who fails to comply with the directive for blocking information can be prosecuted and punished with a jail term of up to seven years with fine, if found guilty

Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Twitter, has said that the blocking orders are contrary to the right to freedom of expression and the entire business of the company will come to an end due to the nature of a blocking order.

The counsel for the Central government said that the Solicitor General of India, who will argue on behalf of the government, has COVID-19, and he requires at least 15 days to recover from the infection.

Hence, the Bench adjourned the hearing while accepting August 25 as the date for hearing the petition, on Mr. Rohatgi's request. The petition was filed after the designated officer of MeitY, following a series of meeting with the Compliance Officer of Twitter on the issues raised on correctness of several 'blocking orders', issued a notice on June 27, 2022 informing that penal action would be initiated against Twitter for not complying with the 'blocking orders'.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 6

Russia to leave ISS, build own space station

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW

Russia will pull out of the International Space Station (ISS) after 2024 and focus on building its own orbiting station, the country's new space chief said on Tuesday amid tensions between Moscow and the West over the Ukraine war.

Yuri Borisov said during a meeting with President Vladimir Putin that Russia would fulfil its obligations to its partners before leaving. "The decision to leave ISS after 2024 has been made," Mr. Borisov said.

NASA and other international partners hope to keep the space station running until 2030.

REPORT ▸ PAGE 13

THE HINDU

Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Contaminated water

26,126 The number of rural habitations with contaminants in drinking water. About 26,279 rural habitations were identified to have contaminants in water sources as of April 1 this year. Minister of State for Jal Shakti Bishweswar Tudu said fluoride beyond permissible limits has been found in certain isolated pockets (point source) of 408 districts in 26 States and UTs, and arsenic in certain isolated pockets (point source) of 209 districts in 25 States and UTs. PTI

Attacks on migrants

28 The number of migrant workers killed in Jammu Kashmir since 2017, according to the government in Parliament. Out of the 28 migrant workers who were killed, two belong to Maharashtra, one from Jharkhand and seven from Bihar. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Union minister Nityanand Rai also said that there has been a substantial decline in the number of terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir — from 417 in 2018 to 229 in 2021. Mr. Rai said that the government has taken several steps for the safety of minorities. PTI

Tiger deaths

329 The number of tigers India lost in the past three years due to poaching, natural and unnatural causes. According to a reply in the Lok Sabha, 68 tiger deaths were attributed to natural causes, five to unnatural causes, 29 to poaching and 30 to 'seizure' while a total of 197 tiger deaths are under scrutiny. However, the number of poaching cases has reduced over the years — from 17 in 2019 to four in 2021. According to the data presented, 125 people have been killed in 'tiger attacks' in this period. PTI

Money laundering cases

5,400 The number of money laundering cases the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed since the criminal law was enacted over 17 years ago. It has secured conviction against just 23 persons till now, according to details provided in Parliament. Till March 31, 2022, the ED recorded 5,422 cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, attached proceeds of crime of ₹1,04,702 crore, and filed charge sheets in 992 cases resulting in the confiscation of ₹869.31 crore. PTI

Border construction

15,477 In ₹ crore, the amount spent by the government to construct 2,088 kms of roads in areas bordering China in the last five years. In total, the government spent ₹20,767 crore in constructing 3,595 kms of border roads that included those in areas along the frontiers with Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, according to details provided in the Lok Sabha. There has been a renewed focus on developing infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Power tariff revisions and the state of DISCOMs

Why are power distribution companies swimming in losses? Why are States reluctant to hike power prices?

THE GIST

- On July 13, the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) filed a general retail power tariff revision petition with the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission proposing to hike power tariffs by 10% to 35%. Mounting losses, outstanding loans and the consequent increase in interest burden, have compelled the Tangedco to file the petition.
- According to Niti Aayog's report of August 2021, most power DISCOMs in the country incur losses every year — the total loss was estimated to be ₹90,000 crore in the financial year 2021.
- Despite the Centre's prescription for annual or periodical revision of retail power tariff, States have not complied. The general approach is to use electricity as a tool for political agenda and make promises to allure people despite knowing that such assurances, if implemented, are not sustainable in the long run.

T. RAMAKRISHAN

The story so far: On July 13, the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) filed a general retail power tariff revision petition with the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission proposing to hike power tariffs by 10% to 35%. If the proposal comes into effect, expected in September, the hike will be after a gap of eight years. While announcing the government's decision to increase the tariff, Electricity Minister V. Senthilbalaji maintained that the proposed power tariff hike will not affect one crore domestic consumers and people living in hutments out of a total of around 2.39 crore.

Why has the tariff revision petition been filed by the power utility?

A number of factors, which include mounting losses, outstanding loans and the consequent increase in interest burden, has compelled the Tangedco to file the petition. Even after joining the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) – a scheme meant for improving the health of state-owned electricity distribution companies (DISCOM)–in January 2017, Tamil Nadu could not bring down the gap between the Average Cost of Supply (ACS) and the Average Revenue Realised (ARR) to nil by 2018-19, as stipulated in the scheme. On the contrary, the gap rose to ₹1.07 per unit in 2019-20 against ₹0.6 per unit in 2015-16, according to a report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General on the implementation of the UDAY scheme by the Tangedco which was tabled on the floor of the State Assembly in May 2022. The Minister told the media that the cumulative financial losses went up from ₹18,954 crore in 2011-12 to ₹ 1,13,266 crore in 2020-21. What is more important than all these factors is the commitment provided by the Tamil Nadu government to fully absorb Tangedco's losses, due to which the State government has made an allocation of ₹13,108 crore this year in the form of budgetary support.

The Centre tightened its focus on the State by having withheld, through the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), the release of ₹3,435 crore under the Special Liquidity (Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan) loan scheme, apart from not releasing the grant of ₹10,793 crore under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a guideline to commercial banks that if lending is to be provided to any State-owned power utility including DISCOMs, the entity should have filed a tariff revision petition by November 30 every year.

What about other power DISCOMS in the country?

The Tamil Nadu case is an example of what is happening in the distribution sector in the country. According to Niti Aayog's report of August 2021, most power DISCOMs incur losses every year – the total loss was estimated to be ₹90,000 crore in the financial year 2021. Due to these accumulated losses, DISCOMs were unable to pay for generators on time – as of March 2021, an amount of ₹67,917 crore was overdue.

To help these DISCOMs, the Centre in May 2020, announced a Liquidity Infusion Scheme (Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan), under which loans of ₹1,35,497 crore have been sanctioned. As of December 31, 2021, a total of ₹1.03 lakh crore has been disbursed.

Where do other States stand on power tariffs?

Despite the Centre's prescription for annual or periodical revision of retail power tariff, States have found the exercise painful, as the parties in power in the States link the process to their prospects at the time of Assembly or Lok Sabha elections.

In Andhra Pradesh, the power tariff hike for domestic consumers approved in March, took place after a gap of two decades. Kerala, where the increase came into effect in late June, had it after three years. In March 2022, the Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission issued an order, rejecting the proposal for a 9.9% hike. In Punjab, no changes in the tariff were made and on the contrary, since the beginning of this month, domestic consumers in the State have been given free electricity up to 300 units each month.

In Tamil Nadu, all domestic consumers are entitled to 100 units of free electricity bi-monthly since May 2016 when the AIADMK retained power. The existing DMK regime has decided not to disturb this arrangement. In Gujarat, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has promised free electricity if it is voted to power in the Assembly election to be held later this year. The general approach of many parties is to use electricity as a tool for their political agenda and make promises to allure people despite knowing that such assurances, if implemented, are not sustainable in the long run.

Do States provide subsidies to sectors like agriculture?

Yes. A common feature of the power distribution policies of the States is to provide free or heavily subsidised supply to agriculture. The connections for the farm sector are unmetered. Tamil Nadu, which has been implementing free power supply for the sector since the mid-1980s, had long resisted the installation of meters even for fresh connections. But it has been allowing the installation of meters for agricultural pump sets. A senior official claims that the meters are there only to do an assessment of consumption and not for billing. Segregation of feeders has been suggested as an option to arrive at the accurate consumption of the farm sector so that the disproportionate quantum of consumption is not attributed to agriculturists in the absence of meters. Gujarat is cited as a success story in this regard. In Manipur, according to the Niti Aayog's report, prepaid metering was supplemented with improved power supply, resulting in improved billing and collection efficiency as well as lower commercial losses.

The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission, in its tariff order of March 2022, came out with an incentive package in the area of demand side management. It stipulated that an incentive equal to 5% of energy charges should be given on installation and pushed for the use of energy saving devices such as ISI energy efficient motors for pump sets and programmable on-off/ dimmer switch with automation for street lights.

Power strike: AIADMK cadres protesting in Sivakasi against the Tamil Nadu government's proposal to increase power tariffs. • GOVARTHAN. M

EXPLAINER

The killing of activists in Myanmar and its aftermath

Will the execution of four pro-democracy activists instil fear among the people or will opposition against the junta increase?

APARUPA BHATTACHERJEE

The story so far: On July 25, Myanmar's junta executed four pro-democracy activists. The junta spokesperson called the executions "lawful" and said it was "justice for the people."

What has happened in Myanmar since the coup in 2021?

The military (Tatmadaw) seized power from the democratically elected National League of Democracy (NLD) party in February 2021. The junta led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing formed the State Administrative Council (SAC). Following the coup, Aung San Suu Kyi and several other leaders of the NLD were detained immediately and are still in detention.

As mass protests, called the 'spring revolution', against the regime began, a parallel government – the National Unity Government (NUG) – was formed. It has an armed division known as the People's Defence Force (PDF), which is supported and trained by several armed ethnic groups.

However, they have not been able to make a dent against the junta's repressive measures.

Who were the executed activists?

Two of the executed activists have been identified – Ko Jimmy was a 53-year-old veteran of the "88 Movement" student uprising and Ko Phyo Zeya Thaw was a rapper, hip-hop artist and a member of the NLD party. They were arrested in November 2021, and sentenced to death in January 2022 by the military tribunal. They were convicted for devising and participating in anti-regime activities. Since the coup in 2021, the tribunal, according to Irrawady, has sentenced 113 people to death for their role in the armed resistance against the regime.

In protest: A poster against the Myanmar junta's execution of four prisoners. • AFP

What led to the latest executions?

On July 22, when the two activists were allowed to meet their families, there was speculation about their execution. Quoting a UN spokesperson, *Reuters* reported atleast 1,500 people killed and 11,787 detained by the junta. These repressive measures have failed to suppress the public hostility towards the regime. Perhaps there is growing restlessness within the junta for failing to establish control and legitimacy despite being in power since February 2021, which has led to these executions.

The second reason could be to boost the morale of the military leadership. A section within the Tatmadaw has questioned Senior General Min Aung Hlaing's leadership capabilities, compared to his predecessors Ne Win and Than Shwe. Some military and police officials have even joined the pro-democracy movement. The government is grappling with a resistance movement, ethnic conflicts, terror attacks and a failing economy. According to the World Bank, there had been an 18% economic contraction in the country by the end of September 2021. His promises of an election in two years, forming a caretaker government and declaring himself as a Prime Minister in August 2021 have failed to appease the people.

Third, perhaps the regime sees the global focus on Ukraine (and Sri Lanka) as an opportunity to carry out something in its own backyard.

Will the executions reduce hostility or lead to a flare up?

The opposition led by the PDF is likely to increase. Calling the executions unforgivable, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the NUG said: "the junta will have to pay the price legally. The executions have made us more determined to topple the regime." Both the activists were youth icons and prominent leaders of the pro-democracy movement. If Aung San Suu Kyi's freedom is a hope that helps the pro-democracy movement to sustain, these executions will act as a catalyst. In the coming days, the junta might face probable retribution.

Will the executions impact the ethnic conflict between the groups? Unlikely. The equation between the ethnic groups and the junta is likely to remain unstable; however, the equation between the ethnic groups is less likely to be impacted because of the executions.

Is the international response adequate?

The execution has been condemned by individual countries and international organisations. Regionally, the strongest voice has been from Cambodia, the chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), of which Myanmar is a member. He had requested the Senior General "to reconsider" and "refrain" from such action as it was causing "great concern among the ASEAN members and its external partners." Neither these condemnations nor the earlier sanctions levied by countries and organisations, including the U.S., Canada, Australia, the U.K., the European Union and others, have made an impact on the regime.

Sanctions are not new to Min Aung Hlaing and his Ministers. Successive military regimes have resisted external pressure – both from within the region and the rest of the world. The Senior General did not budge to honour ASEAN's five-point consensus for the peace and stability of Myanmar, although he agreed to implement them in a regional meeting in April 2021. Besides, there is support for the regime from its allies. Russia has strongly supported the junta since the coup. The friendship has been well displayed by political and economic collaborations. China, the junta's oldest ally, was one of the first to give it de facto recognition after the coup. The support from Russia and China was also projected by the United Nations Security Council. China has a high stake in Myanmar due to its infrastructural projects and investments. It also wishes to avoid conflict within its borders. Among ASEAN members, Thailand's proximity to the junta is a known fact.

While there are regional and international sanctions on the regime, there is also support from crucial actors. The latter sustains the regime against the former.

So, what do these executions mean for democracy?

Democracy will remain a far-fetched dream for Myanmar. Although Min Aung Hlaing promised an election by 2023, it is unlikely to happen.

If the opposition continues despite executions, the junta will conduct a general election which will be a repeat of 2011. The Tatmadaw's proxy Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) may come back to power through a rigged election.

The author is a PhD scholar at the School of Conflict and Security Studies at NIAS, Bengaluru.

THE GIST

- On July 25, Myanmar's junta executed four pro-democracy activists. Two of the executed activists have been identified — Ko Jimmy who was a 53-year-old veteran of the "88 Movement" student uprising, and Ko Phyo Zeya Thaw, a rapper, hip-hop artist and a member of the NLD party.
- The execution has been condemned by individual countries and international organisations. However, none of these condemnations nor sanctions have made an impact on the regime.
- There is growing restlessness within the junta for failing to establish control and legitimacy despite being in power since February 2021.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, JUL. 27
RISE 06:04 SET 18:48
RISE 04:39 SET 17:58
THURSDAY, JUL. 28
RISE 06:04 SET 18:48
RISE 05:32 SET 18:45
FRIDAY, JUL. 29
RISE 06:05 SET 18:48
RISE 06:23 SET 19:30

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
25°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower is likely.

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Traffic police and schools spar over parking of buses

BTP has told schools, which do not have parking slots for their buses, to hire space elsewhere, but schools say implementing this is not feasible

JAHNAVI T.R.
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) and school managements across the city have gotten into a tussle over traffic problems caused by school buses parked on roads near schools.

Over 800 schools have been served notices by the police. While BTP has ordered that schools, which do not have ample parking spaces for their buses as well as parents' vehicles should hire other spaces for the same, the school authorities say that implementing this will not be feasible.

Over 800 schools have been served notices by the Bengaluru Traffic Police. •FILE PHOTO

The notices come in the backdrop of a series of complaints by the public about traffic congestion near school zones, occupation of footpaths by school buses, harassment by school bus drivers, and the threat to the safety of schoolchildren as well as other pedestrians.

A lot of people also took to social media to report such problems, especially from around Residency Road.

School managements, which have no space for parking on their premises, have been asked to hire private security guards to manage the movement of buses as well as parents' vehicles between the external parking space and the school.

"Parents should be allowed to enter the school campus while picking up their children so that the traffic on road reduces," a senior official of BTP said.

The school authorities argue that the notices are not fair as apart from some schools, which have 50-100 buses, the others do not cause any kind of inconvenience to traffic movement.

"This problem mostly exists in the Central Business District (CBD) where there are several big schools who have around 100 buses each. The schools in much less busier areas, where even the number of students is fewer, traffic problems do not exist. As primary stakeholders in the matter, we were not even consulted before sending us notices. This is plain harassment," said D. Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Managements' of Primary and Secondary Schools.

Rising complaints

BTP officials say this is not a sudden move, but a problem which has been around for years. "We have received a lot of complaints from the public. Residents of Indiranagar and surrounding areas say that school buses arrive in the morning and stay parked in the residential areas until the let-off time. Not just these areas, we have also received complaints from people living in areas such as Bagalur and Kodigehalli about the inconvenience caused by school buses. We have served notices to only those schools that are actually causing problems. We have no issues with others," said B.R. Ravikanthe Gowda, Joint Commissioner (Traffic).

"Especially within the CBD, there are paid parking spaces. They can park their vehicles there and safely walk children to the school and back as they cannot take their vehicles till the footpaths near schools," he said.

When asked about the enforcement against rash driving of school vehicles, he said that training and awareness programmes are being conducted year after year, but school managements should also insist that the drivers follow the rules.

"Most of us will be in a hurry while picking and dropping our children, especially in the morning hours. It is true that without regulation of the movement of vehicles and the never-ending trail of school buses, we waste at least 15 minutes of our time. Schools and the enforcement officers should reach a consensus and work out a solution for this problem. Some free parking spaces should be built in school zones for the public benefit", said Sushma R., a parent who drops off her daughter in CBD.

Two African nationals held; drugs worth ₹34 cr. seized

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Sunday caught a 30-year-old woman from Zambia when she landed at Kempegowda International Airport and was walking out with a bag containing 4.5 kg of heroin worth around ₹30 crore.

The woman is allegedly part of an international drug syndicate and was sent to Bengaluru on business visa with the consignment to hand it over to her contact. The drugs were concealed in a specially designed layer inside the trolley bag, sources said. The woman was supposed to call her contact as soon as she landed, following which she was promised local logistic help and a ticket to her next destination. Officials are now trying to track down the local contact to ascertain the network.

In a similar operation the DRI officials on Thursday, based on a tip-off, raided an international courier firm and recovered a parcel with 4.5 kg of Pseudoephedrine worth ₹20 lakh.

The drugs were concealed in a toy and couriered to New Zealand from Chennai. In another operation, the officials caught a 30-year-old man from Uganda and recovered 80 capsules of Methamphetamine worth ₹4 crore from him.

Four vehicles damaged in serial accident on Peenya flyover

Elderly woman sustains injuries, others escape unhurt

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Traffic movement on the busy Peenya flyover was disrupted for some time when a speeding car, in a bid to avoid a highway patrolling vehicle, hit the median and caused a serial accident on Monday.

The incident occurred around 11.30 a.m. when the highway patrolling vehicle had stopped in the middle of the flyover to remove banners and flex boards put up along the median to wish Yelahanka MLA S.R. Vishwanath for his birthday.

Cars involved in the serial accident on Peenya flyover in Bengaluru. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Car hit divider

The speeding car that was moving towards Tumakuru failed to notice the patrolling vehicle, lost control, and hit the divider. Other vehicles following the car screeched to a halt and collided with each other.

In the melee, an elderly woman sustained minor injuries while others escaped unhurt. As many as four cars were damaged in the serial accident, but no one has filed a complaint so far, a police officer said.

The Peenya traffic police pulled out the damaged vehicles to ease traffic flow.

Ire against leaders

As the video of the serial accident was uploaded on social media, people expressed their anger against politicians for putting up banners despite High Court order against it.

Priest, teacher booked on charge of sexually abusing minor a decade ago

Incident took place on church premises when the victim was 10 years old

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The city police, acting on the directions of the National Human Rights Commission, have booked eight persons, including a church priest and a teacher, for sexually abusing a minor girl a decade ago.

The East Division Women's Police Station has registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, for rape and outraging the modesty of a woman under the Indian Penal Code. The sexual abuse reportedly took place on church premises when the victim was 10 years old.

Under treatment

The victim, who is now aged 20 and pursuing her studies in a city-based college, was under treatment for the trauma she suffered due to the sexual abuse. She recently shared her ordeal with her sister, who approached the NHRC, which directed the city police to register a case and probe the matter.

The City Police Commissioner tasked the Yelahanka police to investigate the case. However, they issued a notice to the victim to record her statement within three days and allegedly threatened to close the case if she failed to do so. Worried about the development, the victim with the help of her lawyers, approached DCP (East), who directed the East Division Women's Police to register a case and investigate.

The victim, in her complaint, said that her parents were attached to the church and used to go out often on work and would drop her at the church or their friend's house. When she was 10 years old, the prime accused in the case, who was a priest, raped her on the church premises and forced her to watch objectionable photos to sexually harass her repeatedly. The accused threatened her not to reveal this to others.

However, unable to bear the harassment, the victim told her school teacher, who called the priest and advised him against it. But the teacher also joined in and started sexually harassing her later. The victim has alleged in her complaint that the teacher has also sexually harassed other students.

The victim even told her parents who were shocked but asked her to pardon them and move on.

Due to this, the victim went into depression and was under treatment until she recently narrated her ordeal with her sister, who stayed in the neighbouring State. The police have now subjected the victim to medical examination and produced her before the magistrate to give her statement for further investigation.

Six others booked

The six others who are booked are those who knew about the case, did not act and indirectly supported the accused to continue with their acts, the victim, said in her complaint.

Five arrested; 1,693 kg of red sanders seized

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Byatarayanapura police on Friday busted an inter-State red sanders smuggling racket and arrested five persons in two separate cases and seized 1,693 kg of red sanders worth ₹2.6 crore from them.

The accused were waiting for their clients to sell the endemic wood logs when a team of police led by Shankar Naik raided new timber layout near Satellite bus stand and caught Vinod Rajendra red-handed and seized 17 kg of red sanders and a bike from him. Based on his information, the police raided his house in Hesaraghatta and recovered 1,580 kg of red sanders, which he had hidden in a sump of his house.

Inquiries revealed that he was part of the inter-State gang which gets the consignment from the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh to sell the wood and share the profit with his associates. The accused were using motorcycles to smuggle wood in small quantities in the backpacks from the neighbouring State to hoodwink staff at the check post and police.

Based on his information, the police team raided a premises near underpass junction on NICE road Nandi link road and arrested four persons and recovered 113 kg of red sanders from them. The police are now investigating to ascertain the smuggling network and where such a huge quantity of red sanders were going to, a police officer said.

Power shutdown today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

There will be no power supply on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the areas serviced from 66/11 KV L and T South City MUSS in view of maintenance works.

According to a press release from BESCOM, HSR Layout Division, the areas to be affected are: Laxmi Layout, Kammanahalli, Shanthinikethana, Doddamma Layout, Pandurang Nagar Layout, Motappa Compound, Arekere Mico Layout, Syndicate Bank Colony, Thimmappa Reddy Layout, Brundavana Layout, Vijayashree Layout, Omkar Nagara, Venkateshwara BDA Layout, B.K. Circle, Jambu Savari Dinne, Gottigere, South Avenue Layout, Pavamana Nagara, Kembathalli and surrounding areas.

THE HINDU
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CCB intensifies probe into links of terror suspects

Their chat history, places they have visited, and network in other States are on focus

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A day after the arrest of 23-year-old food delivery executive Akthar Hussain from his rented house in Tilak Nagar, and his associate Zubair from Salem in Tamil Nadu, on suspicion that he was in part of a terror network, city police have intensified investigation into their terror links.

City police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy said that preliminary inquires with the two arrested men revealed that they were enamoured by jihadi literature, impressed by radical ideologies and were active on messaging platform Telegram discussing the same.

However, investigation have so far not revealed any of their subversive activities or plans. We are trying to uncover their network, the places they have visited in the city, State or the country, he said.

Officials suspect that Akhtar used to communicate with a group of people from Assam, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, through telegram and other messenger apps. The officials are retrieving the chat history and questioning him and Zubair, his associate arrested from Salem in Tamil Nadu, where he was working in a garment factory. The accused might have traveled to many places including Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and other places to meet his contacts to possibly plan for their terror activities, which is being probed, police said.

Police are also questioning the four roommates of Akhtar Hussain in Tilak Nagar. The four were from his home town.

KSR railway station gets five-star rating

Chosen for providing nutritious food

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

KSR Railway Station has been awarded a five-star rating, not for its rail services, but for their facilities which provide high quality, nutritious food to passengers.

A third-party audit, which was empanelled by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) provided the five star 'Eat Right Station' certification making the station the first in Bengaluru division of South Western Railway (SWR) to get the recognition.

The certification, which is a part of the 'Eat Right India' movement, is given to those stations that adhere to the standard practices of food storage and hygiene prescribed by the FSSAI. Within the KSR Railway Station, there are 40 food establishments including a food plaza, three Jan Ahar stalls, nine milk parlours, four fast food units, seven multipurpose stalls, and 16 catering stalls.

"All the catering stalls at KSR Railway Station are provided with food licence certificates. The vendors also have medical fitness certificates and adhere to norms," said Divisional Railway Manager Syam Singh.

KSR Railway Station is first in Bengaluru division of SWR to get the recognition.

"An FSSAI empanelled third-party audit team checked all stalls and base kitchens as per FSSAI norms and checklist issued by FSSAI at the railway station for two days of March and one day of June. The parameters chosen include food quality, hygiene and the entire chain, including waste disposal," said Chief Medical Superintendent Shobha Jaganath.

City's prime office rental grew 12%: Knight Frank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Bengaluru witnessed the highest prime office rental percentage in Asia Pacific region with an increase of 12.1% year-on-year in the second calendar quarter of 2022, said Knight Frank, a realty advisory, consulting and management firm.

With a double-digit growth, Bengaluru was the best-performing prime office market in the APAC region in terms of rental growth in Q2 2022 as compared to last year, and continuing on this trend, the rental value in the city may rise during the following 12 months, reported the firm.

With the 22nd position on APAC Prime Office Rental Index, the city finds itself as one of the least expensive prime office markets in the region. The prime office rent of the city was recorded at ₹1,620/sq ft/year.

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said the Indian office market witnessed strong leasing trend that continued into Q2 2022 with Bengaluru leading in transaction volumes.

Cong. spokesperson booked for protesting in front of KPSC office

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Vidhana Soudha police on Monday registered an FIR against Congress spokesperson Bhavya Narasimhamurthy and six others for protesting in front of the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) office against the delay in announcing results of various recruitment exams.

Complaint

Shivakumar, head constable, in his complaint said that around 200 protesters gathered in front of the office, situated behind the Vidhana Soudha and shouted slogans and created ruckus.

Traffic hit

Due to this, traffic movement on the busy junction was disrupted for an hour and the protesters had not taken permission. The police resorted to caning to disperse the protesters and detained Ms. Bhavya and six others. They have been booked under sections 143 (unlawful assembly) and 290 (public nuisance) and were released on station bail.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **MRS. RANJITHA BARIKE RAGHAVA** and **MR. PAWAN KALLUMUTLU GANESHA** intend to purchase the Schedule Property from the present owners **Mrs. REKHA & MR. M.L. CHANDRA REDDY,** having purchased the same as per a Sale Deed dated 23.09.2020, registered as document no. SHV-1-03926-2020-21, stored in CD No. SHVD758, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar Shivajinagar, Bengaluru & their names having been entered in the revenue records of BBMP.

The said purchasers **MRS. RANJITHA BARIKE RAGHAVA** and **MR. PAWAN KALLUMUTLU GANESHA** have purchased the same from the legal heirs of one **LATE SMT. B. KAMALA** who was the original owner of the Schedule Property in terms of an Allotment by BDA and thereafter I am informed that all the legal heirs of Late Smt. B. Kamala namely Sri B.S. Tulasi Suvasini, Smt. B.S. Shantha Murthy, Smt. B.S. Geetha & Smt. B.S. Gayathri have died. I am further informed that all of them were unmarried and only Smt. B.S. Gayathri was married. Hence her husband Sri B.K. Ravi & and son Sri B.S. Jalal are the only legal heirs of the entire family of **LATE SMT. B. KAMALA** who have succeeded to her share and Sri B.K. Ravi & Sri B.S. Jalal have sold the Schedule Property to **Mrs. REKHA & MR. M.L. CHANDRA REDDY.** The Purchasers **MRS. RANJITHA BARIKE RAGHAVA and MR. PAWAN KALLUMUTLU GANESHA** to are intending to purchase the Schedule Property by availing a loan from the **STATE BANK OF INDIA** by creating a charge over the Schedule Property & hence any person, individuals, financial institutions or body corporate whosoever having any claims, interest, or charge, etc., in whatsoever manner over the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to lodge their claims or objections, if any, with supporting documents thereon with the undersigned in person within **seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this general public notice, failing which my clients will presume that the Schedule Property herein is free from all sorts of encumbrance of whatsoever nature and proceed to complete the sale transactions.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of North facing BDA Vacant **Site No. 724, Khatha** PID No. 60000513261 situated at **19th Block, Arkavathy Layout,** formed by Bangalore Development Authority in Survey No. 13/2 of Chelikere Village K.R. Puram Hobli Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban, measuring East to West 9 meters and North to South 12 meters, in all measuring **108 Square Meters,** together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on:

East by : Site No. 725
West by : Site No. 723
North by : Road
South by : Site No. 707

Mr Masood Ali Khan Mecci, Advocate
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Mobile : 9845548279

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THE HINDU
Text & Context

TOOLBOX

Using technology to make better decisions

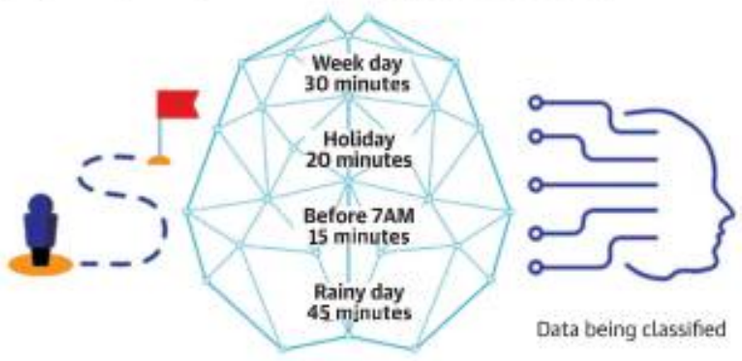
Life is an endless process of taking multiple decisions be it professional or personal. "What do I need to keep in mind before I present my talk to this diverse audience?", "I need to hire the right person for this job without being unconsciously biased", or even "What should I order for lunch today? Too many places to order from!" and many more. This article will explain to you a tool which can help influence your decision in a positive way. With this tool, we will be entering into the complex world of Data Science albeit without all the complexity as amazing data scientists have made it a bit easier for us. You just need to know how to put these techniques in innovative solutions. In this article, we will combine two simple yet powerful tools to get started. By **Jaydeep Chakrabarty.**

NAVIGATING DATA

Data is everywhere. It is not just in the form of numbers or text but also images, videos, and audio files. To use data efficiently, we need to classify the data properly and put it into the right category. Classified data is used to take better decisions in different fields such as marketing, advertising, finance, healthcare, education and many more. To give you an example, a departmental store might decide which two products should be given as a combo offer to attract more customers. A bank may decide in minutes whether this customer can get a loan or not by analysing their credit history by running various classified data through some algorithms.

You must have heard phrases like, "this person is speaking from his/her experience", or "speaking from my experience, I think you should take route B to reach faster". What is this 'experience' if not a collection of classified data that a person stores over the years? For example, let's say you are going to your office or school — somewhere you have to commute regularly. It's Monday and you started from home at 9 AM and reached at 9:30 AM. Your mind stored and tagged this data as taking 30 minutes to reach your destination. After two days, on a Wednesday, you reached at 9:20 AM because you realised that it is a bank holiday.

Now you can reach the destination on a holiday in 20 minutes. And slowly as you continue to encounter different traits that affect your travel time, you keep on classifying and storing this data in your mind for future reference. After a year or so, you gain that 'experience' to direct someone else with the classified data in your head to make better decisions.



Data being classified

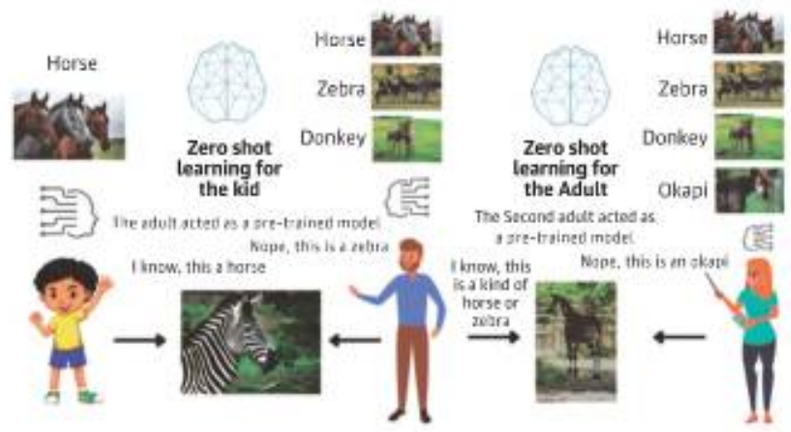
But as the data gets larger and decisions get more complex, we would need mechanisms to continually tag and maintain such data. For that we need tools. But before we jump into action, let us take a quick look at the technical terms.

Zero shot text classification

Zero Shot Text Classification is a new and innovative machine learning technology that enables computers to classify texts without any prior knowledge of the statements. This technology has been developed by a team of researchers from the University of Copenhagen. It helps in labelling your text data without training any data model. But what is a trained data model?

Think of a trained model as a brain, which is programmed to be filled with 'experiences' to help you make decisions. This is also one of the reasons why it's called zero shot learning because we don't have to provide any set of labelled data during the training of the classifier. We try to use a trained classifier to label a text that we want to classify.

To better understand zero shot learning, imagine a young girl who has seen pictures of different horses and thinks that she knows the animal pretty well. Suddenly one day the girl sees a zebra, the first classification that will come to her mind is that "this is a horse!". But then this can be correctly classified by an adult whose mind has a better classification of similar looking animals. The adult can then help the girl learn that this is not a horse but a zebra. This instance not only helps the girl correctly identify the animal, but also creates a new classification in her mind. This cycle may continue with the adult seeing an okapi for the first time. Okapis are also known as zebra giraffes, found mostly in Central Africa. The same adult might now classify this animal as "some kind of horse or zebra", until someone else who has seen this animal before helps the person learn that this is an okapi.



With this basic knowledge, let us try to use this technique of classification with Google Sheets and the Hugging Face library.

UNDERSTANDING OUR TOOLS

Google Sheets is a spreadsheet application from Google that lets you create and edit spreadsheets on the web, from either a browser or the Google Sheets app. If you have an email setup with Gmail, you already have access to Google Sheets. If not, please create a free email id with Gmail (https://gmail.com).

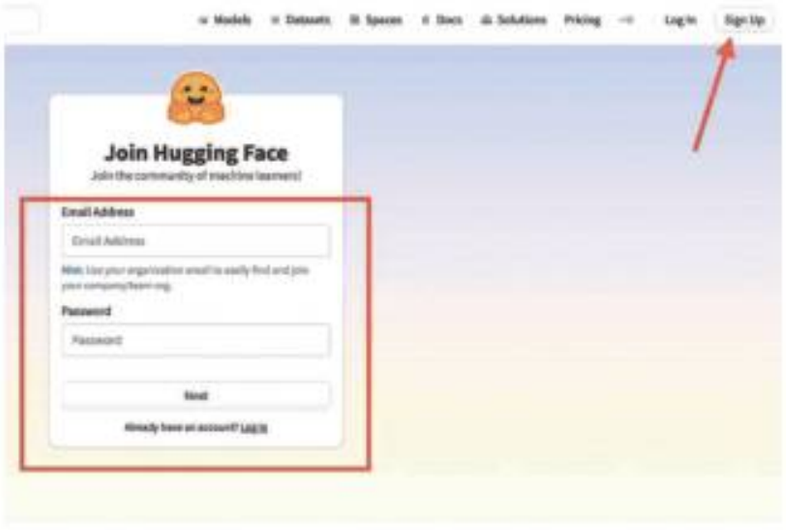
Hugging Face is a community and data science platform that provides tools that enable users to build, train and deploy machine learning models based on open source (OS) code and technologies.

There are many trained models available with hugging face libraries, that are very powerful and can be combined with programming languages like Python to create amazing data science applications. But for this exercise, we will not be using any programming, just a small code that the Hugging face team created to be used behind Google Sheets, which will actually provide your sheet with a mechanical brain to classify text data. Let's get started.

HOW TO SET UP A HUGGING FACE ACCOUNT

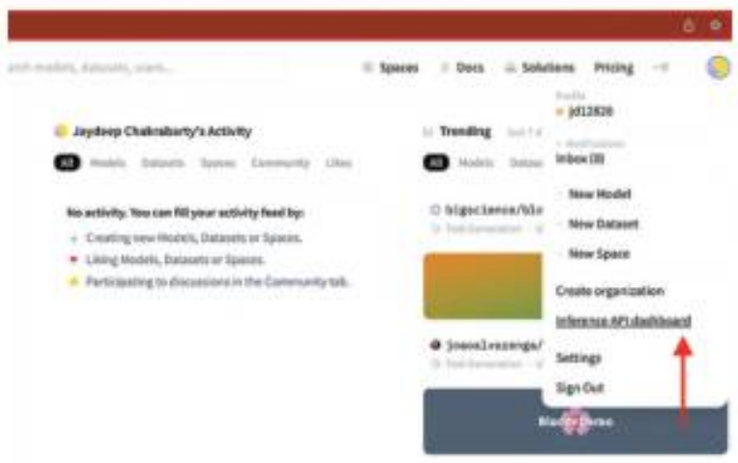
Step 1 - Navigate to https://huggingface.co/

Step 2 - Click on signup and provide the necessary information to create your account.



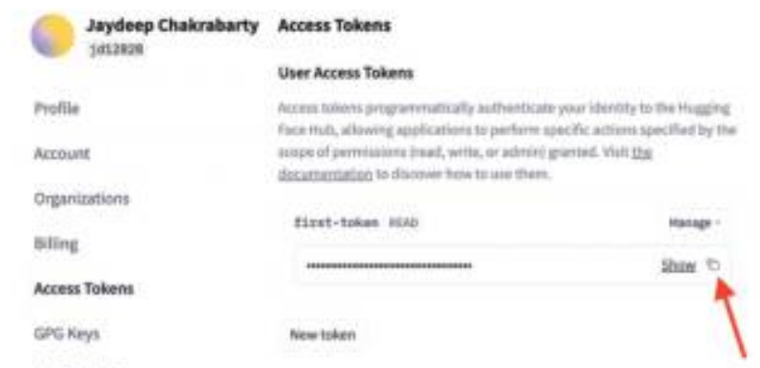
Step 3 - Retrieve your token.

Once logged in, click on the Inference API Dashboard available under the user profile in the top right corner.



Now click on tokens under profile

On the next page, click on 'New token' and give it a name. After the token is generated, copy and paste it on a note or document

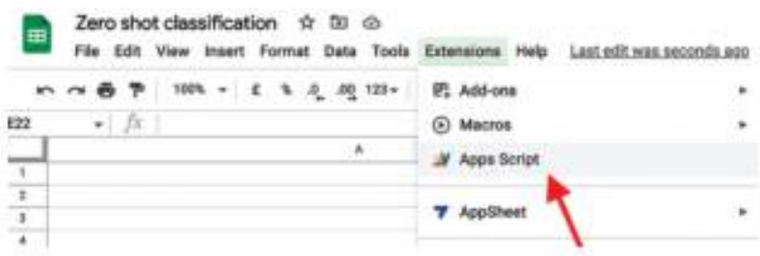


SETTING UP GOOGLE SHEETS

Assuming that you already have a Gmail account or have created one, let's now set up your Google sheets.

Step 1 - Navigate to https://sheets.google.com and open a blank sheet and give it a name, say "Zero shot classification"

Step 2 - Click on "extensions" and then click on "App Script". This will open the App script editor.



Step 3 - On the App script editor, paste the below code. This code was created by the Hugging Face team. It can also be directly copied from their github gist page below.

https://gist.github.com/feconroses/302474ddd3f3c466dc069ecf16bb09d7

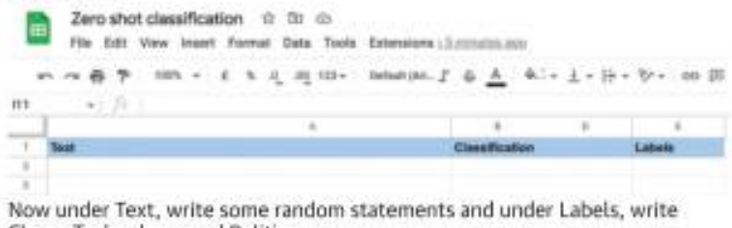
```
function ANALYZE(input, labels, repo_id="facebook/bart-large-mnli") {

 endpoint = "https://api-inference.huggingface.co/models/" + repo_id;

 const payload = JSON.stringify({
  "inputs": input,
  "parameters": {"candidate_labels": labels}});

 // Add your token from https://huggingface.co/settings/token
 const options = {
   "headers": {"Authorization": "Bearer <YOUR HUGGINGFACE API KEY>"},
   "wait_for_model": true,
   "use_gpu": false,
   "method" : "POST",
   "contentType" : "application/json",
   "payload" : payload,

 };

 const response = UrlFetchApp.fetch(endpoint, options);

 const data = JSON.parse(response.getContentText());

 return data['labels'][0];
}
```

App script code

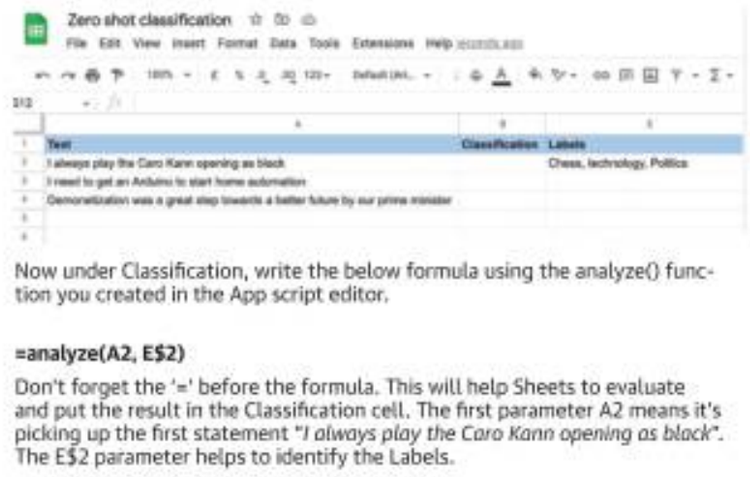
In the code, replace the <YOUR HUGGINGFACE API KEY>, with the Token that you saved in the previous step.

That's it! You are now ready for the magic. Let's test and see whether it works.

Suppose we have to categorise a few statements under three broad topics — **Chess, Technology** and **Politics**. For that one has to create the column names first. Here we have named the three columns as Text, Classification and Labels.



Now under Text, write some random statements and under Labels, write Chess, Technology, and Politics.

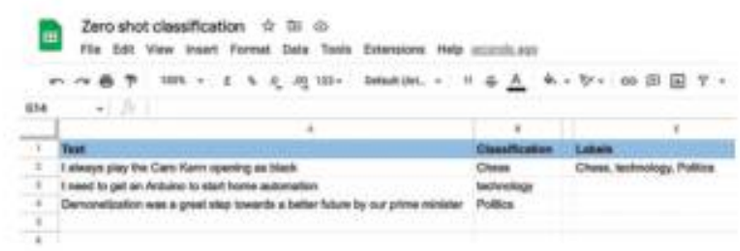


Now under Classification, write the below formula using the analyze() function you created in the App script editor.

=analyze(A2, E$2)

Don't forget the '=' before the formula. This will help Sheets to evaluate and put the result in the Classification cell. The first parameter A2 means it's picking up the first statement "*I always play the Caro Kann opening as black*". The E$2 parameter helps to identify the Labels.

The moment you press enter, you will see that it has identified the statement as Chess (as Caro Kann is an opening for moving black in chess). Now just copy the formula for the other two statements as well. You need to change the first parameter from A2 to A3 and A4 so that it picks up the second and third statement respectively. You will see that the next two statements, "*I need to get an Arduino to start home automation*" and "*Demonetisation was a great step towards a better future by our Prime Minister*" are classified automatically as Technology and Politics.



OTHER USE CASES

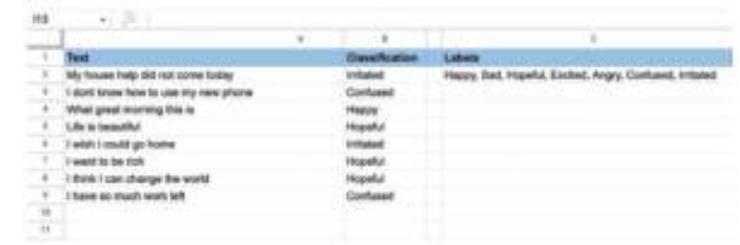
We have now seen how a complex classification system can be implemented very easily. While you can now use or extend this for many other classifications, let's try one more simple but powerful use case — an unbiased sentiment analysis.

For example, let's say you are going to facilitate a workshop for a group of participants on some subject. It is always better to start by asking a simple question to the group about how they were feeling about the subject or the workshop in general. This helps us to better modulate the talk so as to cater to different sentiments. For example, if everyone says that the topic is difficult and that they are afraid or unsure, one knows that the workshop needs to be executed in a more engaging manner with lots of analogies. But usually what happens is that people start giving positive remarks so as to not seem vulnerable within a group. So, we would probably end up getting some false positives. Can we make this process a bit more productive?

Let's say, instead of asking how they are feeling about the topic, we ask them to give any random number of statements that are coming to their heads now, which is not related to the workshop at all. Suppose they come up with the statements below:

My house help did not come today
I don't know how to use my new phone
What great morning this is
Life is beautiful
I wish I could go home
I want to be rich
I think I can change the world
I have so much work left

Now if we put these texts in the same Google sheet and have some labels like Happy, Sad, Hopeful, Excited, Angry, Confused, Irritated, we can understand how they are feeling at the moment. This process will be a lot more unbiased and may also reduce the chances of false representation.



Check the below result for the same.

This is a relatively small example. There could be much bigger use cases such as segregating knowledge assets in organisations, universities or schools. This is one of the challenges that industries are facing currently — classifying valuable knowledge assets, specially in the remote age. Have a look at this article from Asyncagile to understand why it is important for an organisation to classify the huge and untraceable knowledge for a sustainable strategy.

https://www.asyncagile.org/blog/farming-tacit-knowledge-in-a-remote-first-asynchronous-setup. Or scan QR1

QR1

I am really interested to know how you will be using this in your day-to-day decision making. Let me know by email or social channels, whichever is convenient to you.

Also, if you are interested, using the below google form, let me know how you feel after reading this article. I will collect all the statements and perform a sentiment analysis on them and then share it with you through social channels. Quite an experiment, isn't it? All the best and keep innovating.

QR2

Google form: *https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc24P2nDaA2JO-EMRGulRgOT6NSWP1YdDHHX-c2Q7NdPlAz21Q/viewform?usp=sf_link.*
Or scan QR2.

Jaydeep is the Head of Communities at Thoughtworks, India. He can be reached at jaydeepc@thoughtworks.com via email and @jchakrabarty on twitter and LinkedIn.

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

SWACHH GRAMODAYA

'Safe drinking water, open defecation free villages is our priority'

Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Swachh Bharat Mission(G)

- More than 50.14 Lakh Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) constructed
- More than 1842 Community Sanitary Complexes (CSC) constructed
- 4579 Swachha Sankeerna (SWM) units established with unique Branding.
- Waste management activities are initiated in Swachha Sankeerna (SWM) units of 4579 Grama Panchayats
- Action taken for implementation of more than 14 GOBAR-dhan units
- Approved 21612 Liquid Waste Management (LWM) DPRs

Jal Jeevan Mission (Mane Manege Gange)

- Reached more than 53.00 Lakh Households in Karnataka through providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) under JJM
- 100% FHTCs have been provided in one Taluka, 462 Gram Panchayats and 3757 Villages
- Safe drinking water facilities provided to 95000 Schools and Anganawadi centres
- 80 Labs are established for testing of drinking water quality
- NABL accreditation obtained for 17 District level and 11 Taluka level water testing laboratories
- Water quality is being tested at all primary sources using FTKs (Field Test Kits) across rural areas
- PARIHARA-a dedicated Call Center is established for Grievance redressal of Water and Sanitation issues

ONE YEAR OF RESOLUTION TO REALIZATION

To safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the Fundamental Duty of every Indian.

Contact Parihara helpline to solve all your grievances related to water and sanitation.

parihara
94809 85555
parihara.rdwsdl@gmail.com GovtOfKarnatakaRdpr
gokRDPR www.swachhamevajayate.org

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Department of Health and Family Welfare

HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENT IN KARNATAKA

1 Year Achievement

Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Under the Government led by Hon'ble Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai, Department of Health and Family Welfare has implemented various development programmes at a rapid pace in Karnataka in accordance with the motto "Your Health, Our Responsibility".

Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka

31.74 Lakh
Cards have been issued till date.

Health and Wellness Centre

8,619 Centres Operationalized.
3,173 Community Health Officers appointed.

Pradhan Mantri - Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

Rs.2,617.38 Crore
are intended to be spent for the next five-years for building new Infrastructure and strengthening existing institutions to effectively manage any future Pandemic & Health Emergencies.

Arogya Nandana

78.32 Lakh
Free health screening was conducted for children aged 0-18 years.

e-Sanjeevani

62.43 Lakh
Tele-medicine consultations were conducted.

Namma Clinics

438
To provide comprehensive primary healthcare services for urban poor.

Organ Transplant Surgeries

46
Total transplant surgeries performed
37 Kidney
5 Heart
4 Liver

PCV Vaccination

1.9 Lakh (PCV-1) **1.79 Lakh** (PCV-2)
Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine administered to prevent Pneumonia in children.

Recruitment of Doctors

933 GDMOs **401** Specialists **84** Dentists

Mother and Children Hospital

4 Hospitals
Bailahongala - 100 bedded
Jewargi - 100 bedded
Kushtagi - 100 bedded
Manchenahalli - 60 bedded

Awards for Achievement

India Today Healthgiri Award for effective COVID-19 Management.

14 (5 Silver, 9 Bronze) Medals received under subnational certification for TB elimination activity.

Awarded an Excellence Award by the Hon'ble Vice President of India for having 382 DNB seats with excellent pass percentage.

Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Medical Education, Dr. K. Sudhakar attending Health Department programme.

Successful COVID-19 Management

COVID-19 Vaccination
11.41 Crore Doses
Administered till 24.07.2022
5.49 Crore 1st Doses
5.45 Crore 2nd Doses
54.64 Lakh Precaution Doses

COVID-19 Testing
6.76 Crore
Tests conducted.
2.95 Crore RTPCR
82 Lakh RAT
(28.07.2021 to 23.07.2022)

COVID-19 Testing Capacity
1.76 Lakh
A day's total testing capacity of 194 labs in the State.

COVID-19 Tele-consultation
27.60 Lakh
Telephone calls were facilitated.

COVID-19 Bed Arrangement
In Taluk Hospitals
2928 ICU
6386 Oxygenated
In District Hospitals
263 ICU
665 Oxygenated

For more details, please call 24X7 Toll-Free Health Helpline 104

"To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures."
– is the fundamental duty of every Citizen of our Country, enshrined in the Constitution.

Wear Mask · Follow Physical Distancing · Maintain Hand Hygiene · Avoid Crowded Places · Don't spit in public places · Get yourself voluntarily vaccinated

Your Health, Our Responsibility.

Coffee land expects new law to usher in holistic changes

Coffee Bill likely to be tabled in ongoing Parliament session

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

Karnataka is the biggest producer of coffee in India. •FILE PHOTO

Planters' unions in Karnataka are hopeful that the new legislation on coffee, expected to be tabled in the ongoing session of the Parliament, will usher in much-needed changes in the 80-year-old Coffee Act guiding the industry now. Karnataka is the biggest producer of coffee in India.

The Coffee (Promotion and Development) Bill, 2022, is aimed at promoting holistic development of the country's coffee industry. It is expected to do away with the existing 80-year-old set of regulations on commodity, focus on coffee research, domestic marketing of the commodity, creation of drought-tolerant, disease-resistant and better yielding varieties of coffee, among other things.

Special varieties

Planters' unions told *The Hindu* that the new law should help focus on development of special and specialty coffee brands and blends and pay attention to a premium variety of coffee, Arabica.

Bose Mandanna, former Vice-Chairman, Coffee Board, said that the old set of regulations have been around for too long while the industry has transformed.

All leading coffee associations have already submitted their recommendations to the Coffee Board and Ministry of Commerce.

"A revised regulation with its holistic provisions aimed at promotion and development of the entire value chain of coffee and enabling ease of doing business is beneficial to all stakeholders and to the general public," said Shirish Vijayendra, former chairman, Karnataka Planters' Association.

H.T. Pramod, former chairman KPA and Managing Director of Malnad Planters' Coffee Curing Works, said, "We want to see more new varieties coming into plantations and expect better interaction and working together with planters and researchers."

On the back burner

Another planter who does not want to be identified said, "Coffee Board, way back in the 1990s, under the leadership of the then chairman Lakshmi Venkatachalam, had prepared the draft of a replacement of the existing Coffee Act. We submitted it to the Ministry of Commerce, but sadly, several governments sat over it in the last several decades."

BJP youth wing activist killed

Attack took place in Nettaru, Dakshina Kannada district

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

A 32-year-old BJP Yuva Morcha activist died after a grievous assault by a group of people in Nettaru, near Bellare of Dakshina Kannada district, on Tuesday.

The Bellare Police gave the name of deceased as Praveen. The police said that as Praveen was closing his poultry farm for the day, some people came on two-wheelers and assaulted him around 9 p.m.

Soon after assailants left the place, people nearby rushed Praveen to a hospital where he died.

The Bellare Police registered a case of murder. A search is on for the assailants.

1,000 research papers needed from UoM, says Vice-Chancellor

'Research output on the wane and a key factor is faculty strength'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

University of Mysore Vice-Chancellor G. Hemantha Kumar on Tuesday said statistics show that the research output of the university is sliding down fast. One factor may be faculty strength, he added.Presiding over a workshop on 'Research Methodology and Publication' at UoM, he said the faculty and researchers need to shoulder more responsibility to climb up the ladder of the research landscape.

Every effort from the research students must publish at least one research paper annually. One would expect a minimum of 1,000 papers published yearly by the researchers from the University of Mysore, he advised. UoM has one of the promising libraries conducive to research work. "You, as a researcher, have access to Wi-Fi, electronic resources, databases such as Web of Science and IndStat, e-books and other facilities. The governments are investing substantially by way of various schemes of fellowships. The lower rankings impact on institutions' funding negatively. "We need to improve upon the situation very consciously," he opined.

The VC said the performance of University of Mysore is quite admirable under the challenging situation although not exemplary. Last year, it was accredited with the 'A' grade by NAAC and recently ranked 33 in the University category.

These gradings have placed UoM in the top position among the universities in the State. "We could have earned better rankings but for faculty strength and research output," he explained.

Significant factors

Low employability of graduates, failing standards of teaching, unproductive governance, dwindling funds, and complex regulatory policies have compounded the problems already faced by the country. Access to higher education remains a distant goal for many aspirants.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my clients **1. Smt. Anupama D.R.** W/o Sri Sundeep Kadanur Srinivasamurthy, age 37 years, residing at No. 2311/16, 1st Cross, 3rd 'A' Main Road, Hampinagar, RPC Layout, behind Vijayanagar Club Road, Bengaluru-560 104 and **2. Mr. Harsha Dev. M.R.** S/o M.S. Ramdev, age 42 years, R/at No. 634, Akshaya, 10th 'F' Cross, Near Mahaveer Rich Apartment, AGB Layout, Chikkabanavara, Bengaluru-560 090 is intending to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property and entered to Sale Agreement from its owner **Smt. Chethana C.** D/o Chandrakala, C/o Srinivas Murthy L., age 48 years, R/at No. 61, 3rd Floor, 6th Cross, Opp. Maruthi Temple, Byreveshwara Nagar, Nagarabhavi Main Road, Bengaluru-560072.

Any person (s), having any manner of right, title, interest, claim etc., over the Schedule Property may lodge his /her /their / its objections or claims in writing with all supporting documentary evidence with regard to such claims with the undersigned within 15 days hereof, failing which, our client will proceed to complete the purchase transaction. Any objections/ claims received thereafter will not be entertained /binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agriculture land measuring 1 acre in Sy. No. 77/5, (old Sy. No. 77/1) of Makanahalli Village, Sampura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on

East by : Sy. No. 73 land of Gangamurthappa & Siddaiah
West by : Road,
North by : Sy. No. 77/3 land belongs to Siddagangamma,
South by : Sy. No. 77/1 land belongs to Byraiah.

SREERANGA .L, Advocate, No.126/304, 3rd Floor,Amar Towers, 1st Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-09.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Notification No. 210/Halt/SBC/07/2022

The undersigned on behalf of President of India invites sealed applications for appointment of Halt Agent from educated unemployed persons residing in and around the Kethohalli (KHLL) & Dodjala (DJL) Passenger Train Halt station for issuing Unreserved tickets on Commission Basis for a period of five (05) years or till up-gradation of the station whichever is earlier.

Sl	Station	Section	To start functioning from
1	Kethohalli	SBC-MYS	Date to be notified by the Administration.
2	Dodjala	YNK-KOZ	

Date and time of submission of application: **From 10.00 hrs. to 15:00 hrs. of 26-08-2022**

For details log on: **www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Bengaluru

PUB/DSTA/SWR/PRESS/SWR/2022-23

S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that My Client **Mr T.R.Ravi Teja** has intending to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from the Owner **Mrs.M.Lakshmi** if any persons having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the Schedule Property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your claims, within **12 days** from the date of Publication of this notice. Failing which, it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by any body and my Client will proceed for completion of Sale transaction and thereafter claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and Parcel of the **Site No.1011,** PID No.60000011594, formed by the BDA, situated at **further extension of Anjanapura 11th Block, Bangalore,** measuring 108 Sq.mtrs.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-560078.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer (Technical and Vigilance Cell), Annex Building-2, First Floor, Narasimha Raja Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

No: EE/TVCC/TEND(EoI)/01/2022-23 Dated: 26.07.2022

CORRIGENDUM-1

Subject	FOR EMPANELMENT OF CONSULTANTS / FIRMS HAVING NABL ACCREDITED MATERIAL TESTING LABORATORIES IN BBMP
Reference	Tender Notification No: EE/TVCC/TEND(EOI)/01 /2022-23, Dated: 11.07.2022

With respect to above subject, due to technical reasons the schedule of dates pertaining to the above EOI tender notification is postponed & the changes are to be read as below in the table.

Sl. No.	Calendar of Events	As per schedule date & time	Revised date & time
1.	The Pre Bid Conference date & time	28.07.2022 at 3:00 pm	02.08.2022 at 3:00 pm
2.	The last date for submission of documents	12.08.2022 at 4:00 pm	16.08.2022 at 5:30 pm
3.	Opening of Technical Bids date & time	16.08.2022 at 11:30 am	18.08.2022 at 11:30 am

Sd/- Executive Engineer-Technical and Vigilance Cell

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Airport Road, Bengaluru - 560 017
(Phone: 080 25084162, 4318, 4156) (Fax: 080 25084155)

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, item-rate tender is invited for the following work:

Sl.No.	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Electrical works for providing Occupancy sensors in all Toilets at URSC Main Campus Old Airport Road and URSC - ISITE Campus Marathahalli, Bengaluru
2	E-Tender Notice No.	ETN No.: URSC/C&MG/E/TN-09/2022-23 Dtd: 22.07.2022
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 21.91 Lakhs
4	Tender Document details	E-Tender
5	Period of completion	Three (03) Months
6	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹ 43,820.00/-
7	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	From 10.30 hrs. on 26.07.2022 to 16.30 hrs. on 10.08.2022
8	Bid clarification	From 11.00 hrs. on 26.07.2022 to 16.30 hrs. on 11.08.2022
9	Last date of reply to Bid Clarification	Up to 17.00 hrs. on 12.08.2022
10	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 16.08.2022
11	Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 14.30 hrs. on 16.08.2022

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

Sd/- Group Director (C&MG)

ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕುವೆಂಪು ಭಾಷಾ ಭಾರತಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಜ್ಞಾನಭಾರತಿ, ಮಲ್ಲತ್ತಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560056
ದೂ: 080-23183311/ 23183312 ಇಮೇಲ್: kbbp-bengaluru@ka.gov.in

ಕ.ಸಂ:ಕುಭಾಪ್ರಾ/94/ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/2021-22 ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.07.2022

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೋಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕುವೆಂಪು ಭಾಷಾ ಭಾರತಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ **ಡಾ.ಬಿ.ಆರ್.ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಅವರ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಬರಹಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಭಾಷಣಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 22 ಸಂಪುಟಗಳನ್ನು ಮರುಮುದ್ರಿಸುವ** ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಆಫ್‌ಸೆಟ್ ಮುದ್ರಣ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯವುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ಮುದ್ರಣಾಲಯಗಳಿಂದ ಸೀಲಿಡಿ ಸಮೂಹವೊಂದಿಗೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೋಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ) ಮೂಲಕ ಎರಡು (2) ಬಿಡ್ ವಿಧಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.1,50,00,000-00** (ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಒಂದು ಕೋಟಿ ಐವತ್ತು ಲಕ್ಷ ಮಾತ್ರ)ಗಳು. ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಇಂದಿನ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.3,75,000-00** (ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಮೂರು ಲಕ್ಷದ ಎಪ್ಪತ್ತೈದು ಸಾವಿರ ಮಾತ್ರ). ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾದ ಸಮೂಹವೊಂದಿಗೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಪತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆದು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.08.2022ರೊಳಗೆ** ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ದೂ. ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **080-23183311/12.**

DIPR/CP/BCPL/1496/2022-23

ಸಹಿ/- ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟ್ರಾರ್

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009

Short Term Tender Notification (Through E-Procurement portal)

Karnataka Housing Board invites tenders from the eligible contractors who are empanelled & also willing to empanel in Karnataka Housing Board through e-Procurement for below mentioned work.

Last date for submission of bid: 10.08.2022 up to 4.00 PM

Sl.No.	Name of work
1	Construction of Commercial Complex in site No.1 at Suryanagar Phase-I, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT 1010 & IFT No. 103/2022-23, Date: 25.07.2022. **Amount put to tender:** Rs.8,69,32,757/-.

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: **Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru, Phone No. 080-22273511 / 080-22100077, website : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/DP/1503/AKAR/22-23

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS, ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from its owners **SRI. ASIFFULLA BAIG,** S/o: Sri. Abdul Jaleel Baig, Aged about: 62 years, Residing at : Adarsh Nagar, 4th Cross Arleri Road, Malur-563 130. Having purchased the schedule property from Mr. Amanulla Khan and Mr. Irshadh Ahmed Khan.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE Agricultural Land bearing **Sy No: 13** situated at **Chandanahalli Village,** Lakkuru Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District, measuring **4 Acres 21 Guntas** and bounded on the :

East By : Land belonging to Sri.N. A Mirza;
West By : Land belonging to Sri. Kaseem Khan;
North By : Cart road;
South By : Kere (Lake Bed).

Notice is hereby given to all concerned who have any objection/s for purchase of Schedule Property or have any right, title, interest or claim/s over the same or any part thereof, are hereby requested to lodge their written objections/claims together with supporting documentary proof to the undersigned within **(15) Fifteen days** from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections or claims are forthcoming within the above said period, my client shall purchase the above said property and no subsequent claim/s by anybody shall be entertained and all such objections and claims would be deemed to be void and non-binding on my client.

S. Selvakumar, M.A.,LL.M.,
ADVOCATE
No: 22, 4th 'C' Cross, 5th Block, Koramangala Industrial Layout, Bangalore- 560 095. Tel: 080-25526644/45; 25530200
Place : Bangalore Date: 27-07-2022

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2022-23/2347 DATE: 25/07/2022

Short Term E-Tender Notification (Call-1 & Call-2)

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Tender/Re-Tender from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 3 works under head of account 5054-SCP works, Amount put to tender is minimum /maximum of Rs. 175.44 Lakhs.

Calendar of events for the work : 1)Pre-bid meeting date: 29-07-2022 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications:30-07-2022 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids:02-08-2022 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 04-08-2022 at 4.30 PM,5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikkodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-609/MCA/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client, intends to purchase the "Schedule Property" from **M. N. Ranjani,** W/o Late G.S. Phaniraja, Aged about 73 years, Residing at No.289, 12th Cross, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru – 560 011, Pallavi Prasad, D/o Late G.S. Phaniraja, W/o K R Sathya Sai Prasad, Aged about 48 years, Residing at S-129, 1st Cross, Near Water Tank, Kirloskar Colony, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru - 560 079, Pavithra Ram Kumar, D/o Late G.S. Phaniraja, W/o Ram Kumar, Aged about 41 years, Residing at No.64, Sai Krupa, 13th Main, 1st Block, Behind KEB Office, HMT Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru - 560 097 and Prithvi Raj K.S, S/o K R Sathya Sai Prasad, Aged about 23 years, Residing at S-129, 1st Cross, Near Water Tank, Kirloskar Colony, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru -560 079.

Any person having right, title, interest, claim, objections or whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property may file their objections with documentary proof to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the said period, our client will proceed to complete the proposed transaction presuming that above mentioned persons are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property and that there are no other Claimants.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property situated at present BBMP Ward No.50, Municipal New No.9 (Old Site No.288), PID No.50-63-8, situated at 12th Cross, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560 011 measuring East to West 52 feet and North to South 60 feet, in all measuring 3120 square feet and bounded on the: East by : Site No.290; West by : 8th Main Road; North by: Site No.288; and South by: 13th Cross Road.

Sanjay H. Sethiya, Advocate
Law Square, Advocates & Solicitors
Level Two, No.211, 3rd Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560 009
080-4171 1841; info@lawsquare.in
Place: Bengaluru
Date: 27.07.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owners: **Dr.VEERA ASOKA REDDY** (S/o V.Ramachandra Reddy) and his wife **Col.Mrs.ANURADHA AMARA (Retd.),** residing at: No.8/2-5, 20th Main, Opp. MORE Shopping Mall, 1st Stage, BTM Layout, Bangalore.

Apart from the said Owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

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West by : Site No.1
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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KATTA** Nanjundaiah Pandurangaiah R/o No.155, Shankar Nagar Main Road, Nandini Layout, Bangalore-560096 have changed my name from Katta Nanjundaiah Pandurangaiah to Katta Nanjundaiah Pandu vide affidavit dated 26-07-2022 before Notary Mamatha.N.K, Bengaluru.

I, **SUREKHA** Ghatage is legally wedded spouse of No 10490209P Rank HAV Name Raju Jagatap presently residing at Jugul (Vill & Po) Athani (Teh), Belgaum (Dist) Karnataka - 591242 that have declared to changed my name from Surekha Ghatage to Surekha Raju Jagatap vide affidavit dated 19/07/2022 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bangalore.

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LEGAL NOTICE

FORM NO. 1-A
Summons/ Notice for service by advertisement in Newspaper (Order 5 Rule 20 of CPC)
IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYO HALL, AT BANGALORE, (CCH-22)
O.S.No. 25703 of 2022

Plaintiff :
M/s.ICICI Bank Ltd;
Having its Regd. Off at Mytree Centre, No.4, 101 Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068. Reptd. By its Debt Collection Manager :
Sri. Pramoch. G.
S/o. Gurumallappa. B

Defendant :
Mr. Shankar S.L.
Aged about 44 Years,
S/o. Mr. Lakshman
R/at No. 665, 46th Cross, 3rd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010.

WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you seeking to recover a sum of Rs. 6,54,687/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Seven Only) together with future interest at 14.25%, you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by pleader on the 19th day of August 2022 to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 16 July, 2022

By Order of the Hon. Court,
Dy. Registrar,
City Civil Court Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore

SD/-
ALTAF HASAN, Advocate,
No. 60, G-3, Ground Floor,
M.M. Complex, Chikka Bazaar Street, Tasker Town,
Shivajinagar, Bangalore-051

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SAFA** D/o Syed Aslam Ahmed residing at No.79, Fruit Street, Near Baidwadi Mosque, Bharathi Nagar, Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka have changed my name to Safa Syed Aslam vide affidavit dated 26-07-2022 before N. Nagappa, Notary, Bengaluru.

I, **NANJAMMA** B R is legally wedded spouse of No 10490366F Rank PTR Name Naveen T U presently residing at V Badaga (Vill), Kuttandi (Po), Virajpet (Teh), Kodagu (Dist), Karnataka - 571218 that have declared to changed my name from Nanjamma B R to Nanjamma T N vide affidavit dated 14/07/2022 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bangalore.

LEGAL NOTICE

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- 2,
NO.4, LIC JEEVAN MANGAL BUILDING, RESIDENCY ROAD, BANGALORE-560 025
O.A.NO.1254/2019

BETWEEN :
ICICI BANK LIMITED
Having its branch office at Towers 1, Commissariat Road, Ground Floor, Bengaluru-560025.
...APPLICANT

AND :
1.MR. HARISHA K. NANJAPPA,
Aged about 35 years,
Son of Mr. Nanjappa,
Residing at House No. 104, Shiva Krupa Nilaya, 10th Cross, TPK Road, Sapthagiri Extension, Thumkur-572103.
2. MRS. CHITHRA. H.N.
D/o. Mr. Nanjundappa,
Aged about 24 years,
Residing at House No. 104, Shiva Krupa Nilaya, 10th Cross, TPK Road, Sapthagiri Extension, Thumkur- 572103.
...DEFENDANTS

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an application Under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 21,61,782.26 (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Sixty One Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Two Paisa Twenty Six Only)** together with current and future interest and other relief's. The above Defendant is therefore, hereby directed to before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorized agents in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 11/11/2022 at 10:30 A.M., as to why relief's prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand & and seal of this Tribunal on this 14th day July 2022

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II Bangalore

PERSONAL

LOST & FOUND

SHARE CERTIFICATE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificate No:315, Distinctive No:217161-217910, Folio No:B02064 for 750 shares of Godfrey Phillips India Limited with its Registered Office at Marcopolo Building, Ground Floor, Next to Kala Chowksy Post Office, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Road, Lalbaug, Mumbai in the name of Late Rani Brijmani and Rai Pushpa Lata has been reported lost and that an application for the issuance of duplicates in lieu thereof has been made to the company. Objections, if any, should be made within 15 days from the date of this publication to the company registrar & share transfer agent: Link Intime India Private Limited,247 Park, C-101 LBS Marg, Vikhroli (West), Mumbai 400083. The public are cautioned against dealing in any way with these shares. Samta J Singh

MOBILE 98452 28164

LEGAL NOTICE

FORM NO. 1-A
Summons/ Notice for service by advertisement in Newspaper (Order 5 Rule 20 of CPC)
IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE, MAYO HALL- CCH-22,
O.S.No. 25015 of 2022

Plaintiff :
M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd.
Having its Regd. Off at Mytree Centre, No.4, 101 Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068. Reptd. By its Debt Collection Manager :
Sri. Pramodh. G.
S/o. Gurumallappa. B

Defendant :
Mrs. Madhuri D.K,
W/o. Mr. Tilak Kumar Aged about 30 years Residing at No. 1, Sri Guru Nilaya Durgaparameshwari Layout, Bangalore- 560 097.

WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit/an application against you seeking to recover a sum of Rs. 4,85,644/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand Six Hundred and Forty Four Only) together with future interest at 10.99%, you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by pleader on the 24th day of August 2022 to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 17 July, 2022

By Order of the Hon. Court,
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Maya Hall Unit, Bangalore

ALTAF HASAN, Advocate, No. 60, G-3, Ground Floor, M.M.Complex, Chikka Bazaar Street, Tasker Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-051; 9902928290 / 7892117565

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Is remote work adding a whole new dimension to background checks?

The verification process is now factoring in a set of additional variables

LIFFY THOMAS

At a job fair. REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Sunil (name changed), an engineering director at an IT/ITeS company, found Mohan (name changed), who is on a remote work arrangement, suddenly slipping to the fringes, not showing up "online" as often as he should. When confronted, Mohan blamed it on power cuts, family emergencies and system crashes.

Sunil was wondering if Mohan was moonlighting. As it turned out, Mohan was not, and he got a clean chit from an agency roped in to carry out the check. A similar check run on another senior-level employee did not end on a similarly pleasant note.

Ajay Trehan, CEO and founder, AuthBridge Research Services, who has shared this anecdote, elaborates: The client had sought "a continuous compliance check solution" for employees, particularly those on remote work.

"We did uncover dual employment in one of the cases through a PF check, and this employee was holding a senior job title," notes Ajay.

Remote work in its various forms is causing organisations to assesses candidates and employees, with a fine-toothed comb.

Though a situation predating the newly-sprung remote-work culture, job-hopping with ridiculously short tenures is reportedly increasing in intensity in some sectors on account of it.

Short tenures

Vidur Gupta, director, Spectrum Talent Management, points out that many candidates take up remote jobs in quick succession.

While this would automatically raise questions around commitment and competence, there is an additional issue to be tackled if the candidate's CV is silent about most of these stints.

Long innings

The opposite is also true of remote and hybrid work models: When a successful candidate finds a company ticking the boxes for culture and growth in their book, they are likely to stick to it longer than they otherwise would.

Vidur says that with many companies moving to a hybrid model of working, where employees may have to report only once a week, the drop-out percentage has reduced to some extent. So, background verification companies have to factor in a wide range of data, one that focusses not just on the candidate but also on the companies that they have worked in.

Discrepancies in CVs on the rise in some sectors

Sectors such as BFSI, IT, Consulting, E-Commerce and Logistics, and FMCG industries have seen a sharp rise in the discrepancies reported, in Q1-22 against Q4-21.

This is one of the findings of a report by by First Advantage, which carries out screening and verifications related to human capital. The company recently released its first quarter employment screening trends report of India for 2022.

As per the report, out of every 100 employment checks carried out in the BFSI sector, 19 exposed misleading information, in Q1-22.

Other highlights of the report are: Candidate screening for those aged 40 to 50 years has jumped by 5%. More than 10% of the candidates screened in Q1 2022 presented inaccurate information, a marginal jump of 2% as compared to Q4-21.

Out of every 100 employment checks carried out in the BFSI sector, 19 exposed misleading information

Curriculum Vitae comparison revealed a significant increase in inaccurate information given by applicants, an increase of 11% in Q1'22 compared to Q4'21.

Address discrepancy increased by 56% for BFSI. The telecom sector saw an increased difference in address and education screenings by 24% and 3% respectively. The study also notes that discrepancy in background screening was majorly at the associate level, especially in the age bracket of 22 to 30 years.

NEWS BYTES

IIT Mandi invites teams for startup challenge

Indian Institute of Technology Mandi's Technology Business Incubator, Catalyst, is hosting the sixth edition of the Himalayan Startup Trek from August 26 to 28, open to startups, innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs.

The three thematic areas for the startup challenge are: The New Age Alliance: Human-Computer Interaction; The Foothill Innovators Challenge: Build for the Himalayas; and The Habitable World Challenge: Environment and Sustainability.

Selected start-ups will be provided incubation support and access to funding schemes for prototyping as well as product development. The startups will also get piloting opportunities in the state, says a press release. For details, visit www.iitmandicatalyst.in/hst2022

An effort to get youngsters to think like 'solution providers'

Samsung is inviting youngsters to take part in the 'Solve for Tomorrow' innovation and education programme, where they take part in an effort to solve real-world problems.

According to a press release, the company has conducted road shows in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Delhi, Guwahati and Bhubaneswar, where young students spoke about solving problems around safe collection of waste for recycling, job security for daily wagers, language barriers that young students from remote areas face during e-learning, mental health of school students and reusing agricultural waste.

Those between 16 and 22 years of age can apply for Solve for Tomorrow which is open till July 31. For details, visit www.samsung.com/in/solvefortomorrow.

The release added that the top 50 teams will be mentored by industry experts, and get to attend a boot camp at IIT Delhi, to help enhance their ideas. They will receive vouchers for online courses in design thinking, STEM, innovation and leadership. The top 10 teams will get the opportunity to visit Samsung India offices and its R&D centres where they will interact with young Samsung employees and researchers.

GENERAL

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Executive (Ash Technologies)	02
Executive (Non-Destructive Evaluation)	02
Executive (Analytical Chemistry)	04
Executive (Metallurgy)	02

Visit our website careers.ntpc.co.in or careers section at www.ntpc.co.in for viewing detailed eligibility criteria, required qualification, experience requirement, upper age limit, tenure of engagement, monthly remunerations, other terms & conditions and for applying. Only online mode of application will be accepted. The online application portal will remain open from 26.07.2022 to 12.08.2022. Any further addendum/corrigendum/updates will only be published on our website.

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The online application portal will remain open from 26.07.2022 to 11.08.2022

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Adv. No. 19/22

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School Of Pharmacy	Pharmaceutical Analysis, Pharmaceutics, Pharmacology, Drug Regulatory Affairs, Clinical Pharmacy, Medicinal Chemistry
School Of Liberal Arts	English, History, Psychology, Philosophy, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology
School Of Media Studies	Journalism, Public Relations, Mass Communication, Visual Communication, Digital Media
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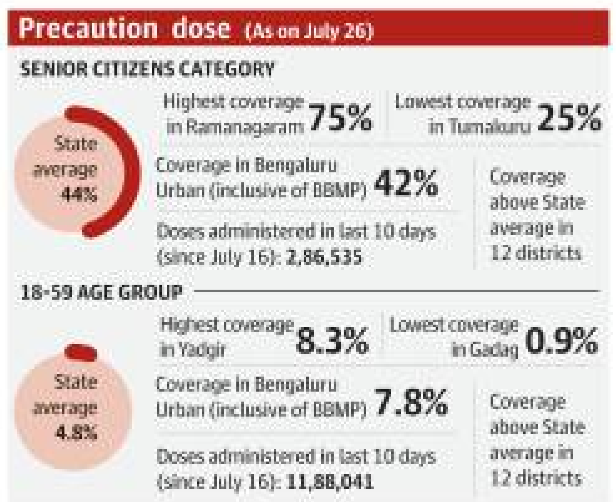
Third dose coverage improves after Centre rolls out free vaccine campaign

Over the last 10 days, nearly 1 lakh doses have been administered daily

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

A health worker administers vaccination in Bengaluru.



Precaution dose coverage in the State has gone up considerably over the last 10 days after the centre rolled out the 75-day free vaccination campaign to mark 75 years of India's independence.

In the 18-59 years age group, the precaution dose (third dose) coverage has gone up from 3.4% last month to 4.8% as of Tuesday. In the senior citizens category, nearly three lakh senior citizens have been covered since July 16, when the campaign was launched. With this, 44% of the targeted 68,87,194 senior citizens have been administered the third dose so far.

The Centre rolled out precaution dose administration for senior citizens across the country on January 10 and for those in the 18-59 age group on April 10. The response was very poor with hardly 20,000 people taking the third dose daily. However, over the last ten days following the roll out of the Centre's Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav COVID vaccine campaign (that will go on till September 30), over one lakh precaution doses have been administered daily. Overall, the State has administered 14,74,576 precaution doses including 11,88,041 doses in the 18-59 age group, according to official data.

"With the duration between two doses having been reduced from nine months to six months, the number of people eligible for the precaution dose has also gone up. Hence, the percentage of coverage may not show the extent of increase in administration of doses. We have administered nearly 15 lakh precaution doses since July 16," Arundathi Chandrashekar, State Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

"Earlier, the third dose was free only for senior citizens in government hospitals. Besides, vaccines were not available in all private facilities. However, now, with easy and free availability of the vaccine in government hospitals for people of all age groups, the daily coverage has seen a considerable improvement," she said.

As on July 26, the State had a target population of 68,87,194 in the senior citizens' category and 3,18,52,100 in the 18-59 age group, due for the precaution dose. According to data from the Co-WIN portal shared by the State Health Department, the coverage in 12 districts is above the State average in both the senior citizens and 18-59 years age groups.

In the senior citizens' category, while the highest coverage is in Ramanagaram where 75% of the target population has been covered, the lowest is in Tumakuru that has 25% coverage. In Bengaluru Urban district, inclusive of BBMP, the coverage so far has been 42%. While Hassan, Kolar and Chitradurga have a coverage of above 60%, Udupi, Mandya, and Chanarajanagar are inching towards 60%. From poor response last month (wherein 13 districts recorded zero coverage and an equal number of districts recording less than 1% coverage) in the 18-59 years group, the coverage has increased considerably over the last 10 days. As on Tuesday, just one district recorded below 1% in the group.

The coverage has been below the State average of 4.8% in 19 districts. While the lowest coverage is in Gadag at 0.9%, Yadgir recorded the highest coverage at 8.3%. Besides, Kolar, Mysuru, Hassan, Vijayanagar, and Bengaluru Urban have recorded coverage above 6%. Bengaluru Urban has achieved a coverage of 7.8%.

BJP to hold 'Janotsava' in all districts from July 28

This is to mark first anniversary of Bommai-led government

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Karnataka has decided to hold *Janotsava* conventions in all the districts from July 28 to mark the first anniversary of the Basavaraj Bommai government and third anniversary of its governance in Karnataka.

- "While *Janotsava* is dedicated to the people of the State, *Siddaramotsava* is dedicated to a person. The BJP celebrates ideology and not personalities," said Energy Minister V. Sunil Kumar.

Announcing this at a press conference on Tuesday, Energy Minister V. Sunil Kumar said the first of the convention series would be held in Doddaballapura on July 28, while similar events would be held in different districts subsequently.

The Minister told *The Hindu* that the district-level events would commence from July 29 and would be completed within three to four days.

Focus on schemes

The conventions would focus on government schemes taken up in specific districts in a bid to effectively reach out to people in a focused manner, he said.

The main intention was to create public awareness about various welfare schemes and infrastructural development measures taken up by the government, he explained.

The main event in Doddaballapura, which would be attended by BJP national president J.P. Nadda, among others, would focus on the State-level welfare measures and schemes, he said.

Dig at Congress

Taking a dig at the Congress which is set to celebrate its leader Siddaramaiah's 75th birth anniversary at the State-level, Mr. Sunil Kumar told reporters: "While *Janotsava* is dedicated to the people of the State, *Siddaramotsava* is dedicated to a person. The BJP celebrates ideology and not personalities." He maintained that people would support "people-centric events like *Janotsava*, but not the personality-oriented *Siddaramotsava*."

The Minister interpreted the episode of the Congress high command issuing notice to Zameer Ahmed Khan, MLA, for his comments on the Vokkaliga community as an indirect notice issued to Mr. Siddaramaiah.

"Mr. Siddaramaiah got Mr. Zameer to say what he himself could not say publicly. Hence, this notice is actually for Mr. Siddaramaiah," he remarked.

Seed of distrust

Accusing Mr. Siddaramaiah of sowing the seed of distrust among different communities during his rule, Mr. Sunil Kumar said Mr. Zameer was only continuing such a trend.

Claiming that the BJP was taking all the communities together through the concept of *sab ka sath sab ka vikas*, he said the Congress strategy was of dividing communities.

Celebrate 'Brashtachara Utsava' to mark one year in office, Congress tells Bommai govt.

'Corruption, scams, and unemployment are achievements of State govt.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Congress on Tuesday charged that the Basavaraj Bommai-led government in Karnataka had failed on all fronts owing to rampant corruption in administration and it should observe "Brashtachara Utsava" (utsav of corruption) to mark its one year in office.

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, in a joint press conference, said that the "double engine" government has not lived up to the expectations of the people and has became well-known for extracting "40% commission" in contract works. Instead of punishing the corrupt officials and Ministers, the government had given clean chit to former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa, they alleged.

Not a single section of society had benefited from the State government's policies. Scams in the recruitment of PSI, teaching staff in colleges, and delay in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) appointments have ruined the future of the youth., they said.

Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar staging a silent protest against the interrogation of Sonia Gandhi by ED, at the party office in Bengaluru on Tuesday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

They sought to know the stance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the alleged "40% commission" in the execution of works in the State, and said Mr. Modi had levelled baseless charges of "10% commission" against the previous Congress government without complaint or evidence.

KPSC recruitment

KPSC was not able to complete the recruitment process and former Minister S. Suresh Kumar of the BJP staged a protest in front of the KPSC office seeking justice for candidates, they claimed.

The Opposition leader accused the BJP of failing to curb corruption, providing employment to youth, and doubling the income of farmers. "Inflation is high, making the lives of poor people difficult. Instead of reducing taxes on commodities, the GST panel headed by Mr. Bommai hiked taxes on essential commodities and burdened the common man and employees of all sectors," Mr. Siddaramaiah alleged.

Communal situation

Law and order situation was totally broken and people were being killed on communal lines. The government insulted the leaders of the freedom movement and seers and writers by dropping their lessons in school textbooks, Mr. Shivakumar alleged.

On developments related to Bengaluru city, the leaders alleged that elections to the BBMP had been postponed citing one or the other reason. The delimitation of wards in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike had not been done on scientific basis and there was no uniformity in fixing size of the population for wards, they said.

The government had not filled 10,000 potholes in Bengaluru city despite orders from the High Court of Karnataka, they alleged. A booklet on the failures of the government was released by the Congress.

'KPTCL set up 1,850 km of transmission lines in 1 year'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Energy Minister V. Sunil Kumar on Tuesday said that the KPTCL had set up 1,850 km of new transmission lines in the last one year after he assumed charge as Minister.

Briefing reporters about the achievements of his department in the last one year on the occasion of the BJP government led by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai preparing to celebrate its first anniversary, Mr. Sunil Kumar said building such long stretches of new transmission lines within a short span of time was one of the major achievements of his department.

He said the decision to provide power connection to houses in Bengaluru without occupancy certificates as another major achievement, while pointing out that such a measure had helped nearly five lakh houses get power supply.

He pointed out that a record number of 3.5 to four lakh transformers had been taken up for maintenance within a week.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (July 27, Wednesday), the following explainers are available:

- **Explained** | Power tariff revisions and the state of DISCOMs bit.ly/TNpowertariff
- **Explained** | The killing of activists in Myanmar and its aftermath bit.ly/Myanmarkillings

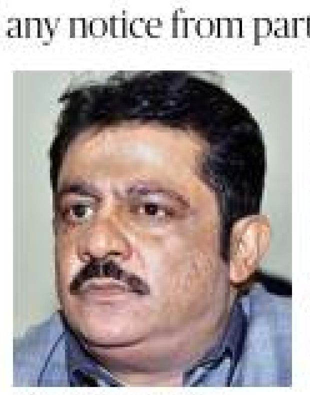
Online exculsives

- **Watch** | This is how Chennai is decked up for the 44th Chess Olympiad bit.ly/chesschennai
- **Watch** | Man quits job to set up clean toilet on highway bit.ly/toiletquits
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

Not said anything wrong against Vokkaligas: Zameer Ahmed

'I have not received any notice from party high command'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI



Zameer Ahmed Khan

Former Minister and MLA Zameer Ahmed Khan, who is caught in a controversy over his remarks on Vokkaligas, clarified again on Tuesday that he had not issued any wrong statements against the Vokkaligas.

Speaking to presspersons in Chitradurga, he said: "If at all I had spoken anything wrong against the Vokkaligas, let people show it to me. I will then apologise. Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda is my political guru and I have grown amid Vokkaligas and with the blessings of Adi Chunchanagiri seer."

He also said that during the byelection, Mr. Deve Gowda worked day and night for him. "Now for the sake of the 2023 Assembly elections, unnecessary gimmicks are being played against me. I am ready to apologise for any wrong remark, but as I have not issued any wrong statement, there is no question of apologising," he said.

Replying to a query, he said: "I have not received any notice from the party high command. AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala spoke to me over telephone and asked me to refrain from issuing statements that damage the party's image. He said that he had asked the KPCC president to not to issue any statement."

Support for ex-CM

Earlier, addressing a preparatory meeting in Davangere for the birthday celebration of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Mr. Zameer batted for the former and claimed that the Muslim community would not grow if anyone other than Mr. Siddaramaiah became the Chief Minister.

FROM PAGE ONE

Twitter's plea: HC notice to Centre

Twitter, which has complied with the 'blocking orders' under protest, has contended in the petition that the 'blocking orders' are manifestly arbitrary, procedurally and substantially not in consonance with Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000.

The 'blocking orders' are also contrary to the procedures and safeguards prescribed in the Information Technology (Procedures and Safeguards for Blocking of Access to Information by Public) Rules, 2009, the petitioner claims.

In 34 cases, it has been claimed in the petition, Twitter was told to block the entire account even though Section 69A allows only blocking of 'information'.

The authorities, since February 2021, have told Twitter to block 1,474 accounts and 175 tweets, it has been stated in the petition while contending that the 'blocking orders' are illegal as authorities have not issued notices to the originators of the accounts under Rule 8 (1) of the 2009 rules, and the 'blocking orders' do not conform to the 'least intrusive test' as recognised by the apex court.

"Several of the URLs (uniform resource locators) contain political and journalistic content. Blocking of such information is gross violation of the freedom of speech guaranteed to citizen-user of platform of Twitter," it has been claimed in the petition while pointing out that no proper reason is assigned in the 'blocking orders'.

"A perusal of content available in the accounts of politicians, activists, and journalists would show that authorities have not shown how content disrupts public order, as contemplated in Section 69A of the Act," it has been claimed in the petition.

State-wide protest

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Karnataka Rajya Samyukta Vasatinilaya Karmikara Sangha, affiliated to affiliated to All India United Trade Union Centre, will hold a State-wide protest on July 29 to demand increase in salary of hostel workers to ₹35,950 and other statutory benefits.

It will be held at at Freedom Park.

Women and Child Development Department
Child Development Project office, Krushik Samaj Building Malur Taluk
Telephone: 08151-232215, e-Mail: cdpoffice4malur@gmail.com
No: CDPOMLR:DWCD:Egg Tender:2022-23 Date: 19.07.2022
e-Tender Announcement
Child development Scheme, Tenders are invited through e-Procurement for supply of Chicken Eggs from eligible organizations to Malur Taluk 304 Anganawadi Centers, on **eproc.karnataka.gov.in** website. For more information contact Tel: 08151-232215 or visit the office in office hours.
(1) Commencement date for receipt of application through e-Procurement: **20.07.2022. (2)** Last date for submission of application through e-Procurement: **19.08.2022. (3)** Date of opening of technical bid: **23.08.2022. (4)** Date of opening of Financial bid: **01.09.2022. (5)** EMD Amount: **Rs.154000/-** (One Lakh Fifty-Four Thousand). **(6)** Annual Estimated Tender Amount: **Rs.10285200/-.**
Sd/- Child Development Project Officer, Malur.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಕೋಲಾರ/ಆರ್.ಒ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 202/ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2022-23
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Women and Child Development Department,
Child Development Office, Bangarpet,
Telephone: 08153-255409 e-Mail: cdpobangarpet@gmail.com
No: DWCD/CDPO/B/Egg/Tender:2022-23/177 Date: 19.07.2022
e-Tender Announcement
Child development Scheme, Tenders are invited through e-Procurement for supply of Chicken Eggs from eligible organizations to Bangarpet Taluk 265 Anganawadi Centers, on **eproc.karnataka.gov.in** website. For more information contact Tel: 08153-255409 or visit the office in office hours.
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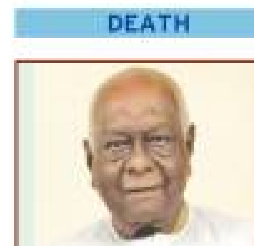
Sd/- Child Development Project Officer, Child Development Project Office, Bangarpet.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಕೋಲಾರ/ಆರ್.ಒ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ198/ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2022-23
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553
TENDER ALERT
1) E-Tender Notice No.CPC-04/2022-23: Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 132kV, 630mm² XLPE copper cable from location no.62 to RTSS Gantry of 132kV SC line from Grid S/S, Chandikhole to proposed RTSS at Dhanamandal including associated civil works, at an estimated cost of the package for Rs.4.94 Crore on "Turnkey Contract Basis"
Complete set of bidding documents are available on www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL portal and www.optcl.co.in. HIPR-16/2022-23 Sd/- SGM (CPC)
CAD-1245 OIPR-04011/11/0057/2223

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



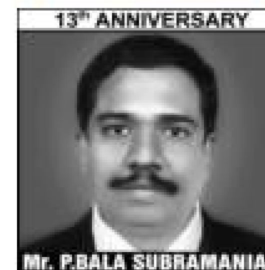
Rev Balasundaram Lazarus
Retired Pastor - Methodist Church in India (CRC) was called to glory on 26th July 2022.
Funeral - Emmanuel Methodist Church, Vepery, Chennai - 28th July at 9.30 AM and burial at Kasimedu Christian Cemetery.
Thanksgiving Service - 30th July - 6.00 PM.
Inserted by :
Wife, Rev Margaret Lazarus, Children and Grandchildren

DEATH

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved, **Shri Ratan Kumar Chokhani** who left for heavenly abode on **15th July 2022** in Bihar. He was a caring husband, loving father, doting grandfather and beloved family man who was always full of life. We will miss him dearly forever.
We request our family and friends to pray that his soul rest in peace.
Deeply mourned by :
Sarita Devi (Wife),
Sumit-Monika (Son-Daughter in law)
Vivek-Swati (Son-Daughter in law)
Ira (Granddaughter)
Phone - 9769395137
9831076576

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

13th ANNIVERSARY



Mr. P.BALA SUBRAMANIAN
23.06.1957 to 27.07.2009
Time flies fast.
Life goes on at its own pace.
But some memories can never be forgotten.
Those we love don't go away.
They walk beside us every day.
You will always remain in our thoughts.
With Heartfelt Remembrance of our Beloved Founder
Family Members & Employees of
BASE
BASE Automation Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

In Memory of your loved ones
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Hubbali: 0836-2338600
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575,
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Monkeypox: Telangana man tests negative

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Samples collected from the first patient with monkeypox symptoms in Telangana tested negative for the virus. Results of the test were announced on Tuesday evening.

Director of Public Health G. Srinivasa Rao said that the sample sent to National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, to test for monkeypox virus was found to be negative. Now, tests would be conducted to check if he has chickenpox.

The 35-year-old returned from Kuwait on July 6, developed fever on July 20, and rashes on skin on July 23.

Based on the symptoms and the travel history, he was suspected to have contracted monkeypox. The man has lesions on face, neck, chest and palm.

'K-Rail acted in a hasty manner'

Kerala High Court says govt. should have taken people into confidence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has asked the government to inform the court of the present stage of the social impact assessment (SIA) survey being conducted for the SilverLine project.

Justice Devan Ramachandran passed the order on Tuesday when a batch of writ petitions against the survey came up for hearing. The court orally observed that the Central government had simply washed its hands of now, stating that it had no role to play in the implementation of the project.

The court observed that the importance of the statement by the Centre could not be lost sight of. The Centre had said in a statement that if the Kerala Railway Development Corporation Limited (K-Rail) was involved in the SIA survey and spent its own funds for it, such involvement and expenditure would be at its own risk and responsibility.

Strong protest: A file photo of activists burning a copy of the Detailed Project Report of the K-Rail in Kozhikode. •K. RAGESH

The Centre had submitted that the Railway Board had neither approved nor concurred with the SIA survey being conducted by the State government under the provision of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in the Land Acquisition Act.

As per the Act, when a State government was conducting an SIA, the Centre had no role in it. It also added that Railways had not approved the project and, therefore, any action for acquisition of land taken by any authority was premature.

The court orally observed that projects of the magnitude of SilverLine could not be hurried or completed on war cries. The government should have taken the people into confidence. The project was one that the State needed. But K-Rail had acted in a hasty manner.

Muhammed Shah, counsel for one of the petitioners, said no further SIA could be taken forward since the six-month period of the notifications for the SIA had expired.

The court also recorded the undertaking of the government that large survey stones had not been used for the survey and that any activities with respect to the SIA, even if it continued, were being done only through geo-tagging. The court also made it clear that the court had neither permitted nor stopped the SIA in any manner.

Representative of Vatican meets Kariyil

K. A. MARTIN
KOCHI

The Vatican representative in Delhi Leopoldo Girelli met apostolic administrator of the Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese of the Syro-Malabar Church Archbishop Antony Kariyil here on Tuesday.

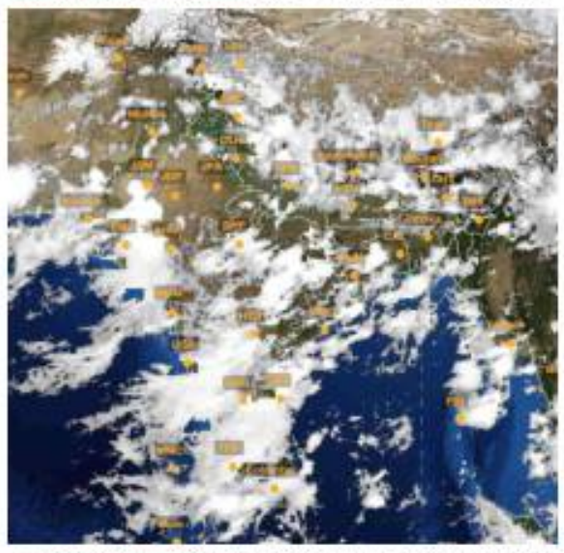
The nuncio also met bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church.

Though there were rumours that Archbishop Kariyil had expressed his willingness to step down from his position as apostolic administrator, Church sources said that a decision would be announced officially from the Vatican.

The Vatican authorities are reported to have asked Archbishop Kariyil to step down in view of his perceived support of the Mass celebration with the priest facing the congregation throughout the ceremony.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	7	29.7	25.6	Kozhikode	2	30.4	23.6
Ahmedabad	50	29.0	24.9	Kurnool	28	27.6	22.4
Aizawl	5	25.7	21.5	Lucknow	27	33.2	24.3
Allahabad	–	34.6	26.2	Madurai	13	33.6	23.5
Bengaluru	–	27.5	21.2	Mangaluru	13.5	29.6	23.0
Bhopal	42.8	–	23.4	Mumbai	2	31.1	26.0
Bhubaneswar	0.2	32.0	25.0	Mysuru	–	31.7	21.3
Chandigarh	–	33.7	28.5	New Delhi	2	33.6	26.4
Chennai	–	33.0	26.7	Patna	–	35.6	27.5
Coimbatore	–	31.4	23.6	Port Blair	4	31.7	26.3
Dehradun	26	30.9	23.0	Puducherry	5.3	32.7	22.7
Gangtok	0.5	21.2	17.1	Pune	0.4	27.0	22.4
Goa	5	30.6	25.2	Raipur	–	33.6	25.4
Guwahati	32	33.6	24.2	Ranchi	9	30.8	23.3
Hubballi	–	28.0	22.0	Shillong	11	22.0	17.6
Hyderabad	11	27.6	21.5	Shimla	22	21.8	16.1
Imphal	10	29.8	20.7	Srinagar	1	31.2	20.3
Jaipur	18.8	30.7	25.0	Thiruvananthapuram	–	32.0	24.2
Kochi	–	30.0	25.6	Tiruchi	2	34.1	24.5
Kohima	16	22.5	16.5	Vijayawada	1	29.4	25.6
Kolkata	1	33.6	26.1	Visakhapatnam	2	32.6	26.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	50	16	.25	41	90	
Bengaluru	9	21	.20	69	102	
Chennai	14	31	.44	46	38	
Delhi	–	69	.88	42	65	
Hyderabad	15	12	–	66	91	
Kolkata	11	13	.18	44	63	
Lucknow	9	97	.45	59	60	
Mumbai	31	3	108	15	91	
Pune	–	35	.87	–	–	
Visakhapatnam	15	50	.40	55	108	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ankleshwar, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 157 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Gangtok, Sikkim recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

CM to announce site for Chennai's second airport

SUNITHA SEKAR
SANGEETHA KANDAVEL
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will soon announce the site for Chennai's second airport. On Tuesday, Minister for Industries Thangam Thennarasu and Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia held detailed discussions on the location for the second airport among various other issues.

Mr. Thennarasu said, "The meeting went on very well. We explained about both the sites proposed – Pannur and Parandur – and the Union Minister has said he would be fine with whichever location the Tamil Nadu government zeroes in on. We will brief Chief Minister M.K. Stalin about the discussions and he will make a formal announcement on the final location," he said. Another government source said the location had already been decided, but the Chief Minister would announce it. They also discussed a proposal for an airport at Karur; Mr. Scindia reportedly said the Centre would consider the proposal. "We will also examine this from our end. There is ample land available in Karur," Mr. Thennarasu said The maintenance, repair and overhaul facility for Chennai would be a priority as part of the Chennai airport expansion plans, Mr. Thennarasu said. "Salem airport was another point of discussion and we spoke about resuming operations here and about how to expand this airport. We want to expand all airports to ensure that bigger flights can land," he added. They also discussed the location for a flying school, and Salem was suggested. Talks were also held on night-landing facilities in Madurai and Thoothukudi. The Centre said it would provide support in terms of land acquisition, Mr. Thennarasu said.

Emigration officials prevent CSI bishop from leaving for U.K.

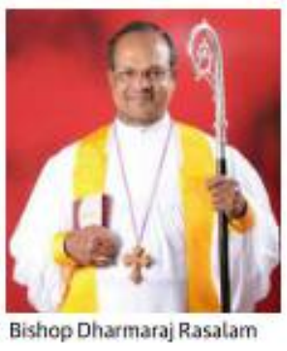
ED has launched a money-laundering probe against him

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Emigration officials at the Thiruvananthapuram international airport prevented Church of South India (CSI) Moderator and South Kerala diocesan bishop Dharmaraj Rasalam from travelling abroad early Tuesday.

Bishop Rasalam is currently the focus of a money laundering inquiry by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Emigration officials stopped the bishop en route to the U.K. to attend a religious convention of Protestant priests. They asked him to appear at the ED office in Kochi on Wednesday.



Bishop Dharmaraj Rasalam

The ED probe is predicated on a college admission scam centred on the Dr. Somervell Memorial CSI Medical College at Karakonam. The alleged fraud has its provenance in a complaint filed by 24 students and their parents.

They claimed they had paid the college management fee to secure medical seats, but were swindled.

An initial investigation by the Crime Branch found that the college management was not guilty. However, the Kerala High Court quashed the agency's findings in early 2022 and ordered a reinvestigation.

'Final report in Swapna case in a month'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Kerala government on Tuesday submitted before the Kerala High Court that the Crime Branch would conclude the investigation in the conspiracy cases registered against Swapna Suresh, accused in the diplomatic gold smuggling case, in a month and file a final report before the court concerned.

The submission was made by Director General of Prosecution T.A. Shaji when a petition filed by Swapna seeking to quash the cases registered against her came up for hearing before Justice Ziyad Rahman A.A.

Mr. Shaji said the police had enough materials to implicate her in the case. A final report would be filed soon. There was no scope for the court to interfere with the case at this stage.

Balancing act

Gushing out: Authorities opened the sluice gates to let out excess water in the Hussainsagar lake in Hyderabad on Tuesday. The water level kept rising in the lake due to incessant rain. •NAGARA GOPAL

Rare flight of Antarctic's Light-mantled Albatross to T.N intrigues researchers

WILSON THOMAS
COIMBATORE

Rameswaram and adjoining islets of the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park on the Adam's Bridge (Ram Setu) are known for their unique marine ecosystem. But the region grabbed the attention of international researchers as Asia's first sighting of Light-mantled Albatross (*Phoebetria palpebrate*), a species native to the Antarctic seas, was recorded here. The sighting, 'First Asian record of Light-mantled Albatross *Phoebetria palpebrata* (Foster, 1785) from Rameswaram Island, Tamil Nadu, India', has been published in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, and researchers are looking for more insights into what is regarded as a surprising transcontinental tour of the Antarctic seabird.

H. Byju and S. Ravichandran, Centre of Advanced Sciences in Marine Biology, Annamalai University, and N. Raveendran, a birder from the Madurai-based Iragukal Amritha Nature Trust, were behind the finding in 2020.

The Light-mantled Albatross that was spotted on the Rameswaram coast. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"This record from the Palk Bay side of Rameswaram island is significant, and throws up new challenges to researchers once these Antarctic birds migrate to Asia," says Mr. Byju. His finding also directs researchers to look for bird migration away from known routes and sites. The spot where the Albatross was spotted is part of the Palk Bay and near the Gulf of Mannar. "We initially believed it to be a Slender-billed Gull. We didn't think then that this would be the first sighting in Asia," recalls Mr. Raveendran. As the nearest recorded site of the bird is around 5,000 km away from Rameswaram, the researchers feel a change in atmospheric pressure could have been among the reasons for the Albatross to land on an Indian shore.

"Of late, changes in wind pattern triggered by global warming are bringing strange birds to our region. A lot of changes are happening in the wind pattern owing to the increase in atmospheric temperature. Birds like albatross use the wind and save energy during flights. Even slight changes in temperature can cause drastic changes in wind pattern and birds could land in places unfamiliar to them," says P.A. Azeez, former director, Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History.

Jagan sanctions bridge to connect four islands in A.P.

STAFF REPORTER
G. PEDAPUDI LANKA

Addressing a gathering of flood victims in the islands of river Godavari on Tuesday, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said his governance was to give free hand to the bureaucrats and their supporting personnel to ensure that assistance reached all the needy.

The Chief Minister was in the Konaseema district on Tuesday as part of his two-day field visits to the flood-hit areas.

Mr. Reddy crossed the Vasista, a branch of Godavari river, on a punt to reach the islands of Ganti Pedapudi Lanka, Arigalavari Peta, Vudumudi Lanka and Boori Lanka.

Taking stock: A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy inspecting damaged crops in Konaseema on Tuesday.

Addressing the gathering in all the four island habitations, Mr. Reddy said a bridge would be constructed across the Vasista connecting the four island habitations to the mainland.

The construction work would commence by August-end, Mr. Reddy said.

Nearly 6,000 people would have a better access to the mainland once the bridge was commissioned. Until now, the islands relied upon traditional boats and motor boats to cross the river round the year.

Mass movement of hornbills from Athirappilly

Expert says it may be a natural behaviour but environmentalists point at tree-felling on plantations

MINI MURINGATHERI
THRISSUR

The mass movement of Malabar pied hornbills from the Pillappara area in Kerala's Athirappilly has raised concern among environmentalists. They doubt large-scale felling of trees in the nearby plantation areas might have prompted the birds, which are sensitive to disturbances, to move from the area.

K.H. Amitha Bachan, founder, Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation, an organisation involved in conservation of hornbills, however, says it can be natural behaviour.

"It can only be a mass movement, not a mass migration. It is natural in this season. Hornbills usually show such a behavioural pattern mostly twice a year. During May-June, after chicks are born, they will be found near the nesting area. Later, in July-August, they move in flock from one valley to another. For example, from Athirappilly to Edamalayar or Sholayar and from Sholayar to Parambikulam or Nelliampathy. The group will have males, females and chicks. It cannot be seen as migration. It is part of their socialisation process. It is during this time they select the pair for the next season," Dr. Bachan says.

Sensitive birds: Malabar pied hornbills. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"In December too, during nesting season, males move to areas where there are plenty of fruits available. In that case they will return after some time," he says.

Malabar pied hornbill (*Anthracoceros coronatus*) is endemic to low-elevation riparian forests. Aided by conservation measures, its population has increased in the Athirappilly-Vazhachal forest area, says Dr. Bachan.

All the four south Indian species of hornbills – Great hornbill (State bird), Malabar pied hornbill, Malabar grey hornbill, and Indian grey hornbill – are found in the riparian forest of the Athirappilly-Vazhachal area.

However, it has been reported that huge trees in the plantation areas under the Athirappilly, Vazhachal and Charpa forest areas have been cut in the past two years. According to local people, hundreds of huge trees such as *aanjili* (wild jack), *chadachi* (dhaman), *erul*, and *mani maruthu* in more than 20 h.a. in Athirappilly were felled recently. Activists fear human presence and the sound of huge machinery might have disturbed the birds.

As hornbills are sensitive, such disturbances can also be attributed to their movement, says Mr. Bachan. The main threat to hornbills apart from poaching is the lack of suitable nesting locations. Natural hollows of tall canopy trees serve as their nests. Forests, undisturbed by human presence, are vital for the survival of these birds.

Square off

Whether India wins medals or not, the staging of the Chess Olympiad will give chess a boost

A nation brimming with chess talent is now ready to parade it on a platform that does not get any bigger. The 44th Chess Olympiad, with participants from 187 nations, opens with a gala ceremony at Chennai's Nehru Stadium on Thursday and the 11-round on-board action commences the following day at Mamallapuram. With the usual medal-winning nations – Russia and China – not in the mix, some first-timers could occupy the podium. The greatest of current players, Magnus Carlsen, is looking to lead Norway to its first medal. There will be other illustrious performers in both sections of the biennial competition, but the discerning would focus on how India performs at home. Being the host, India could field two teams in each section. As there were an odd number of entries, India added a third team to make it even. As a result, 30 players, including 15 women, will represent India in the premier world team championship. Though Viswanathan Anand is the mentor for these teams, the Indian men are strong enough to be seeded second in the Open section. The Indian women, looking for their first medal, are seeded first. Talented teens D. Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi, Nihal Sarin and R. Praggnanandhaa earned their stripes to be on the biggest stage. It remains to be seen whether they play according to their growing reputation.

On the organisational front, the Olympiad promises to be a success. Once Russia was out of the Olympiad both as a host and a participant, the magnitude of what the Tamil Nadu Government and the All India Chess Federation (AICF) have accomplished in setting up this mega event in just four months of getting the hosting rights is hard to comprehend. On getting Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's approval, the bureaucracy turned a vision into reality by taking care of every logistical aspect. The World Chess Federation (FIDE) is already fine-tuning the arrangements, including the two playing halls that will accommodate about 1,400 players, with live broadcast of games from about 700 boards in each round. The Indian technicians are set to raise the bar to a new high. Elsewhere, no effort is being spared to showcase the rich culture and heritage of the country with the focus being on the home State. A team of over 500 volunteers have been trained to handle various needs of the visiting contingents. Security personnel and health workers are in place to meet any contingency. But for those from the AICF who have worked round-the-clock for four months after shifting base to Mamallapuram, all the effort would be worth it only if the Indian teams come up with medal-winning performances.

Desperate measures

Myanmar's junta is only creating martyrs for the resistance through its repression

By executing four political prisoners, defying all international appeals, Myanmar's junta has sent out a clear message to both its critics abroad and the resistance at home that it has no plans for any political settlement. The military (Tatmadaw), which seized power in February 2021 through a coup, unseating the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, has unleashed repressive measures ever since. It arrested some 14,000 political prisoners, of which over 11,000 are still in prison. More than 2,000 civilians have been killed and thousands of houses have been burnt, rendering millions homeless. Ms. Suu Kyi has been convicted on half a dozen phoney charges in secret trials and sentenced to 11 years in prison. The military has slapped her with many other charges that, with convictions from the Generals' kangaroo courts, could effectively keep her in prison for the rest of her life. But despite these repressive measures, the junta has not managed to establish even a semblance of order. While in the past, pro-democracy activists followed non-violent means of protesting against military rulers, now they have built a violent underground movement and joined hands with the country's ethnic rebels, who have been fighting the junta for decades. This has caused significant losses for the military, which is seeing more ambushes and sniper attacks. The execution of the political prisoners, one of them a former lawmaker, is an act of desperation by a dispensation that is being increasingly cornered.

Myanmar had seen a rare period of stability and economic growth when Ms. Suu Kyi was running the government. The military had agreed to an experiment of quasi-democracy when it found the status quo unsustainable. But that experiment lasted only 10 years as the military became increasingly threatened by Ms. Suu Kyi's growing popularity. By staging the coup, it did not just end the democratic experiment, but also sought to remove the potential threats to the military's grip on power. But not everything moved as per plan. The Generals may have captured power, but they now preside over a different Myanmar. The country's economy is in a free fall – it contracted 18% last year and GDP this year is expected to be 13% lower than in 2019, according to the World Bank. The regime is facing armed resistance in the countryside and civil resistance in the cities. The National Unity Government, the alternative administration formed by the resistance, says the junta, which lacks international recognition, has lost half the country to the rebels. With the executions of political prisoners, the Tatmadaw, one of the most consistent enemies of human freedoms and dignity, has sought to instil fear among the public and crush their spirit. But in trying to do so, it has created four martyrs for the resistance. Its tactics are helping neither the power-hungry Generals nor the people of Myanmar.

Whose GDP is it anyway?

It is time for political leaders to clamour for an overhaul of India's economic performance measurement framework

PRAVEEN CHAKRAVARTY

In a few weeks, a quarterly ritual will play out in India. The Government will release the first quarter's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth numbers with some chest-thumping about how India is among the fastest-growing economies in the world. Opposition parties will hold press conferences on the same day to counter such bombast with facts, rhetoric and nitpicking. But the real question is: what is the significance and impact of GDP growth for the common person? The answer: very little.

Growth and jobs

It is safe to say that the average person's primary and perhaps sole concern about the economy is the income they can earn. It is well documented that for several years, the single most important demand of people in India is jobs, specifically, a high-quality formal sector job that ensures dignity of work, good income and job security. It is then apparent that GDP growth matters to the average Indian only if it can generate good quality jobs and incomes for them.

Using data of 'employment in public and organised private sectors' published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), we can calculate that in the decade between 1980 and 1990, every one percentage point of GDP growth (nominal) generated roughly two lakh new jobs in the formal sector. That is, if India's GDP grew by 14% every year in the 1980s, it can be said that it created roughly 28 lakh new formal jobs.

In the subsequent decade from 1990 to 2000, every one percentage point of GDP growth yielded roughly one lakh new formal sector jobs, half of the previous decade. In the next decade between 2000 and 2010, one percentage point of GDP growth generated only 52,000 new jobs. The RBI stopped publishing this data from 2011-12, but one can safely infer using proxy data that in the 2010-2020 decade, the number of new jobs generated for every percentage of GDP growth fell even further.

In essence, one percentage of GDP growth today yields less than one-fourth the number of good quality jobs that it did in the 1980s. While the actual number of jobs created in each decade is only a rough estimate by the RBI, it is the alarming declining trend in job creation over decades that is more important to ponder. To put it differently, India's GDP growth today has to be four times its GDP growth in the 1980s to produce the same number of formal sector jobs.

It is amply clear that the correlation between formal sector jobs and GDP growth has weakened considerably. Ostensibly, high GDP growth now does not necessarily mean more jobs and incomes for people. Hence, GDP growth does not impact the common person today as much as it perhaps did four decades ago. GDP growth may be an important economic measure, but it is becoming increasingly irrelevant as a political measure, since it impacts only a select few and not the vast majority.

This divorce of GDP growth and jobs is both a reflection of the changed nature of contemporary economic development with emphasis on capital-driven efficiency at the cost of labour and GDP being an inadequate measure. Nobel laureate Simon Kuznets, who conceived of GDP as a measure of economic performance, never intended it to be the single-minded economic pursuit for a nation that it has now become, and warned repeatedly that it is not a measure of societal well-being. Irrefutably, GDP is an elegant and simple metric that is a good indicator of economic progress which can be compared across nations. But a compulsive chase for GDP growth at all costs can be counter-productive, since it is not a holistic but a misleading measure. As the saying goes, when a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure.

GETTY IMAGES

The obsession with GDP

The excessive obsession over GDP growth by policymakers and politicians can be unhealthy and dangerous in a democracy. If growth in GDP does not translate into equivalent economic prosperity for the average person, then in a one person-one vote democracy, exuberance over high GDP growth can backfire and trigger a backlash among the general public who may feel left out of this party.

Sri Lanka's mass uprising and people's revolution can partly be explained through this prism of the structural break between headline GDP growth and economic prosperity for the people. Sri Lanka produced two lakh jobs for every percentage of GDP growth in the 1990s decade; this dwindled to 90,000 by 2020. While economic mismanagement and political cronyism may have been the trigger for the recent mass protests in Sri Lanka, the underlying malaise is the dissonance between GDP growth and economic prosperity for the average person.

To be clear, this phenomenon is not unique to India or Sri Lanka or to the governance model of any one political ideology or another. The U.S. today produces fewer new jobs for every percentage point of GDP growth than it did in the 1990s. China produces one-third the number of new jobs today than it did in the 1990s for every percentage of its GDP growth.

The fact that employment intensity of economic growth is declining is neither a new finding nor a surprise to most economists. Yet, given its elegance as a measure, most economists and technocrats still focus heavily on GDP growth. But the perils of the obsession over GDP growth will be felt by politicians who have to answer voters on lack of jobs and incomes despite robust headline growth.

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund may proclaim winners among nations in some inane GDP growth contest every year, but when 'fastest' growing economies are unable to provide prosperity and social mobility for their people, this disillusionment is bound to erupt and manifest itself through the political process. Voter disenchantment over the economy not working for them is already rife in many democracies across the world that have catalysed agitations and social disharmony. Electoral outcomes in favour of extreme positions in mature democracies such as the U.S., the U.K., France and Germany in the last decade may partly be a reflection of voters' sense of deception over economic gains.

An expanded dashboard

Back in 2008, the then President of France, Nicolas Sarkozy, assembled the 'Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress' and tasked Nobel Laureate economists Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen and others to develop a more comprehensive measurement framework of economic and social performance as an alternative to the excessive reliance on GDP as a sole measure. The report concluded that "what we measure affects what we do" and recommended an expanded dashboard of multiple indicators unique for each country.

GDP growth has turned into a misleading and dangerous indicator that portrays false economic promises, betrays people's aspirations and hides deeper social problems. The statistical aphorism 'Everything that counts cannot be counted and everything that can be counted does not count' succinctly summarises the GDP growth paradox facing many democracies today. It is time for India's political leaders, especially those in the Opposition, to not be drawn into facile quibbles over GDP growth every quarter and instead clamour for an overhaul of India's economic performance measurement framework to reflect what truly matters to the common person.

Praveen Chakravarty is a political economist and Chairman of Data Analytics of the Congress party

The U.S.'s search for a new role in West Asia

Realpolitik may have trumped the Biden administration's rather vocal positions on principles in the region

HARSH V. PANT & VIVEK MISHRA

Two contrasting pictures emerged out of U.S. President Joe Biden's four-day visit to West Asia. The first was from his visit to Israel, where Mr. Biden was awarded the Presidential Medal of Honour. The second was from his visit to Saudi Arabia where a cold fist bump with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman foretold the chronicles of an increasingly awkward bilateral relationship.

Compulsions driving Biden

The compulsions driving Mr. Biden's trip to West Asia have been evident. First, he faces the same challenges that several of his predecessors faced in navigating the U.S.'s West Asia policy, especially the Israel-Palestine conflict and Washington's strenuous relations with Iran.

Second, Mr. Biden's trip to Saudi Arabia signalled a re-prioritisation of his administration's interests, compelled by the Russia-Ukraine war and its ramifications on the global food and energy situation. In principle, his meeting with the Crown Prince was a walk back from his earlier promise in 2019 of keeping away from the Kingdom, after U.S. intelligence concluded in its assessment that the Saudi leader was directly involved in the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018.

Although Mr. Biden made a veiled attempt to criticise the Saudi leader, the meeting's focus on bilateral cooperation in 5G technology and integrated air defence, and the fact that Mr. Biden welcomed Saudi Arabia's plan to strategically invest in projects aligning with U.S. Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) goals, all point to Washington's need more than Riyadh's.

Furthermore, the Crown Prince did not make any public commitment to increase oil production. With Saudi Arabia, Mr. Biden is perceived as having skirted critical issues in the bilateral relationship such as the release of political prisoners, clemency for opponents of the regime, and easing of travel restrictions, especially for those who hold dual citizenship in the two countries.

However, two developments from Mr. Biden's visit could result in positive externalities for the region: one, the consensus to sustain a UN-mediated truce in Yemen and two, the opening of Saudi airspace for civilian aircraft flying to and from Israel. The aim of the former is to translate the truce, which has led to 15 weeks of peace, into a durable ceasefire and political process between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, creating conducive grounds for development and aid in war-ravaged Yemen. The latter emboldens the spirit and objectives of regional bonhomie, which the U.S. sought through the Abraham Accords. The Biden administration has tried to add a different hue to the Abraham Accords by establishing the Negev Forum, following up from the Negev Summit held in March 2022.

AP

The energy situation

At the heart of Mr. Biden's trip to West Asia lay the global energy situation, exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine. There is a strong possibility that gas prices in the U.S. may surge as much as three times the current value before the U.S. midterm elections in November. As stricter Western sanctions on Russia kick in, Russia is expected to retaliate by even halting supplies to Europe ahead of the December 5 deadline set by European countries to fully ban Russian cargo ships carrying oil to Europe. Among the top priorities for the Biden administration during the visit to the region were to ensure predictability in energy supplies, stabilise energy prices, curb inflation, assure European allies of energy supplies before winter, and convert these into domestic support for the Democrats in the midterm elections.

As Russia has cut oil and gas supplies to European countries significantly, there is a new energy scramble in Europe which is characteristically both long and short term. In the short term, European countries such as Germany and Austria are bracing for a harsh winter amid limited energy supplies and possibly the threat of a total cut-off by Moscow. In the long term, the U.S. has led the Western effort to establish alternate energy supply routes to ensure energy security for Europe even amid limited Russian supplies.

Mr. Biden's trip to West Asia also saw several other meetings with heads of state as part of his meetings with Gulf Cooperation Council countries in Jeddah including Prime Minister Al-Kadhimi of Iraq; President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed; Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi; Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar; King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain; and King Abdullah II of Jordan. Much in line with Mr. Biden's visit to Saudi Arabia, his meetings with other regional leaders ended without any substantive breakthrough.

Seeking a toehold

With the first leaders' meet of the I2U2 group (comprising India, Israel, the UAE and the U.S.), sometimes referred to as the West Asian Quad, the Biden administration may have found a new toehold in West Asia. The I2U2, beyond its promises of integration, is of strategic value to the U.S. on the back of troop pull-out from Afghanistan, a not-so-favourable relationship with Saudi Arabia and a hostile relationship with Iran. The group's limited focus in this meeting on food security and energy security is understandable given its recent launch, but its agenda of tying the West Asian region with South Asia through innovation, private sector investments, initiatives in water, energy, transportation, space, health, and the promotion and development of critical emerging and green technologies depict an integrated inter-regional future for the two regions.

Since the beginning of his term, Mr. Biden has sought a reorientation in the U.S.'s West Asia policy. Resetting relations with Iran through a reworked Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which would have the U.S. back in the agreement; troop pull-out from Afghanistan, which is having regional security ramifications; and a principled support to democracies translating into a calibrated distancing from regional autocracies and dictatorships were all part of the recalibration. Expectedly, one of the few continuities that Mr. Biden did not want to disturb was the U.S.' relations with Israel.

The Russia-Ukraine war and its implications have shown that the U.S.'s somewhat tenuous relations with countries in the region will continue despite underlying concerns about human rights and political freedom. For now, realpolitik and the compulsions it has engendered for Washington may have trumped the Biden administration's rather vocal positions on principles. And it may well be a wise choice in the end if it translates into domestic political support in the U.S. and a more favourable West Asia for Biden.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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A huge embarrassment

The arrest of West Bengal Minister Partha Chatterjee by the Enforcement Directorate and the seizure of cash and jewellery worth ₹20 crore from the house of his aide, Arpita Mukherjee, is a huge embarrassment to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee ("Partha discharged on AIIMS report", July 26). While distancing herself and her party from the murky affair, Ms. Banerjee declared that she does not support corruption. However, she has still not removed the Minister from the Cabinet. She has said that action will be taken against Mr. Chatterjee only if he is found guilty. But if he is found guilty, he will be convicted and jailed anyway. She should remove him now, as his continuance in the Cabinet has become untenable.

K.R. JAYAPRAKASH RAO,
Mysuru

Hunger to win

The term 'golden arm' was used with reference to two cricketers: Pakistan's Mudassar Nazar and India's Mohinder Amarnath. Neeraj Chopra deserves to join that list. His achievements are extraordinary, but Chopra is not one to rest on laurels. He has shown that he has a burning passion to keep excelling at what he does. He is an inspiration to many who may have golden arms and are raring to go.

BALASUBRAMANIAM PAVANI,
Secunderabad

A lawyer and evidence

How will the public repose faith in lawyers if there are people like Antony Raju? ("A case moving at snail's pace", July 26). To make matters worse, he is the Transport Minister of Kerala. Should he not have been debarred from practice by the Kerala Bar Council or the Bar Council of India for allegedly tampering with evidence?

K. PRADEEP,
Chennai

Order in the House

We can't deny that it is the fear of law that forces people to do the right thing ("No room for logophobia", July 26). Democracy is government by discussion. But insults are shameful in a democracy. While wit, wisdom and retorts are the attributes of a shrewd statesman and parliamentarian, using unparliamentary words does not show wit or wisdom. Even in the example given, Jawaharlal Nehru gave a befitting reply to Ram Manohar Lohia without using unparliamentary words. Some words simply have no place in Parliament.

SUDIPA GANGULI,
Thane

No reasons for no law

Where are doctors supposed to find a solution for the violence against our fraternity if the Central Government does not support us ("No Bill to stop attacks on hospitals", July 26)? Why is the Government not keen on expanding the ambit of the Ordinance to all healthcare workers? No reasons have been given for its reluctance. In this social media age, doctors are blamed in various incidents of violence, but the authorities concerned are not given an opportunity to express their side. We need stronger laws so that the medical fraternity can perform its duty effectively.

DR. JAYASEKHARAN,
Kannur

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Seeking to destroy India's civil society

Government is slowly chipping away at the rights of civil society groups using laws such as FCRA, PMLA

RAHUL MUKHERJI

Segments of the civil society had worked tirelessly for COVID relief, filling the vacuum left by a largely absent state. • FILE PHOTO

Even though Prime Minister Narendra Modi proclaimed India as the mother of democracy on the eve of the G7 summit on June 26, 2022, the government's attack on civil society has reached its zenith. That the Indian state is deeply suspicious of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society leaders was evident even from the 73rd graduation ceremony of the Indian Police Academy in November 2021. National Security Adviser and the Prime Minister's close aide Ajit Doval had warned budding police officers that civil society was the new frontier of war.

The failure to protect minority rights could have grave consequences in a majoritarian political dispensation. Even though it is well known that neighbouring Pakistan's majoritarianism led to its dismemberment, the Indian state is pursuing a similar course.

The Constitution and law sought to protect minority communities and mandated equal rights and protection from the state to persons of all faiths and identities. According to that idea of India, these rights were deemed essential for the consolidation of the Indian state where citizens needed to feel a sense of belonging. Even though civil society organisations have contributed to the constitutional frame, they undoubtedly need to be regulated for defending those values.

Setting an example

On June 25, 2022, renowned public interest lawyer and human rights activist Teesta Setalvad was arrested for allegedly misleading the Supreme Court regarding the Gujarat massacre. Not only did the Gujarat government fail to adequately record the Gujarat killings of 2002, the lawyer, who took the case to the Supreme Court, and the two non-compliant senior retired officers, are in prison. According to a First Information Report (FIR) filed by a police inspector following the favourable Supreme Court ruling of June 24, 2022 the three persons colluded to help the wife of the slain Congress Member of Parliament (MP) Ehsan Jafri to concoct stories regarding the Muslim massacre. These concocted stories, it was argued by Home Minister Amit Shah to a friendly news agency *ANI*, had harmed the reputation of many, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself.

Civil society is targeted in other systematic ways as well. The Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Act (FCRA), and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), used in conjunction with a range of other measures such as the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), are deployed by the government to browbeat and shepherd civil society in a majoritarian Hindu nationalist direction.

Let us take the case of the FCRA. Indian NGOs need an FCRA clearance for using foreign funds for developmental work. The FCRA amended in 2010 by the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA), gave substantial discretionary powers to the state to deal with NGOs. NGOs now needed to renew their licences every five years.

The sheer number of FCRA cancellations, however, suggest that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has cancelled an unprecedented number of licences using the 2010 law.

Our calculations suggest that of the 20,679 civil society organisations that lost their registration between 2011 and May 2022, 3,987 were denied the same during the period of Congress-UPA rule (2011-2014). The vast majority of 16,692 NGOs, however, were denied registration between 2015 and 2022.

The large number of FCRA licence cancellations during the BJP rule between 2015 and 2020 is even more puzzling. Of the 16,692 NGOs that lost their licences between 2015 and 2022, 16,679 were denied the right between 2015 and 2019 before the Act was amended in 2020. No licence was withdrawn in 2020. A cursory look at these withdrawals suggests that increased compliance requirements enabled the state to flush out a large number of NGOs.

FCRA amendment of 2020

Thereafter, the FCRA amendment in 2020 was another blow to the NGO sector. This occurred at the very moment when segments of civil society had worked tirelessly for COVID relief. The amendments were hurriedly passed without much parliamentary deliberation. After the 2020 amendment, NGOs could spend less on administrative costs. Finally, all NGOs were required to operate their foreign accounts through the State Bank of India's branch located at Parliament Street in New Delhi. This would enable the state to track foreign funding organisations even more closely. The Supreme Court's opinion of April 8, 2022, on a writ petition largely upheld the state's intent in the 2020 amendments.

Even Indian NGOs that worked exclusively with domestic funds were not spared. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in her 2020 Budget speech that the tax-free status of domestic donations would be reviewed every five years. This was also the time when domestic funding organisations had been largely coerced to reduce or halt human rights-related grants. Equally, government grants were largely discontinued.

The period after the 2020 amendment was characterised by the demonstration effect of punishing a few significant players that worked either for the minority rights or the poor.

Oxfam's licence was simply not renewed, a mechanism permissible under the FCRA amendment of 2010. Oxfam was generating widely publicised reports regarding the plight of migrant labourers and conditions of the poor during the pandemic. These reports had received worldwide attention. The group was also working to protect workers' rights.

NGOs working for minority rights have an even tougher time. The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative's FCRA approval, for example, was suspended for some time, after which its licence was cancelled earlier this year. Other human rights-oriented organisations such as INSAF and People's Watch were also denied FCRA permissions.

Finally, the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) has been reimagined as a tool against civil society leaders and politicians. This is a penal law that can lead to imprisonment. Typically, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) of the Department of Revenue has wide-ranging powers to search and arrest citizens under the PMLA.The ED was used to attack NGOs such as Amnesty International and the Centre for Equity Studies that have worked incessantly for minority rights. The CES's founder Harsh Mander is a Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow of the Bosch Academy. The agency has also been deployed almost exclusively against political opponents such as Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Delhi's Health Minister Satyendra Jain, among others.

FCRA and PMLA are potent weapons for subduing the pluralistic nature of Indian society that is at the heart of India's democracy.

Social values can be saved if democratic politics protects those values. The million-dollar question is, when will the political Opposition rise? Or, will it rise at all?

Rahul Mukherji is Professor and Chair, Modern Politics of South Asia, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University

A path to global connectivity

Integrating terrestrial 5G networks with LEO satellite networks is the next step in communication infrastructure

V. SRIDHAR & TALLEEN KUMAR

As terrestrial 5G mobile networks are being rolled out across countries, there is a renewed interest in integrating Non-Terrestrial Networks, the primary one being the low latency Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite networks (SatNets), as a complement to terrestrial networks. Towards this, Starlink, operated by the Elon Musk-owned SpaceX, and OneWeb, promoted by Bharti Global, have launched about 2,500 and 648 LEO satellites respectively at an altitude of about 1,200 km with the objective of promoting global broadband connectivity. There are other players such as Reliance Jio in a joint venture with Luxembourg-based SES and Amazon's Project Kuiper.

There are primarily three main use cases for integrating LEO SatNets with terrestrial 5G networks: (i) service continuity to provide seamless transition between terrestrial networks and SatNets in case of public safety, disaster management and emergency situations; (ii) service ubiquity to provide 5G services in unserved and underserved areas of the world, thereby bridging the digital divide; (iii) service scalability that utilises the unique capabilities of SatNets in multicasting and broadcasting similar content over a large geographical area. The LEO SatNets can provide service not only to stationary but also to in-motion users.

Integration process

Satellites and terrestrial networks have always been considered two independent ecosystems, and their standardisation efforts have proceeded independent of each other. In view of the above advantages, standard-setting organisations such as the Third Generation Partnership project (3GPP), comprising telcos and equipment manufacturers around the world, started integrating SatNets in the standardisation process.

As an extension to terrestrial networks, satellites were first mentioned in a deployment scenario of 5G in 3GPP Release 14. This was to provide 5G communication services for areas where terrestrial coverage was not available and also to support services that could be accessed more efficiently through satellite systems, such as broadcasting services and delay-tolerant services.

Interestingly, wireless communications through LEO satellites over long distances is proven to be 1.47 times faster than communication over the same distance through terrestrial optic fibre. It is this advantage along with global coverage that provide a strong use case for LEO SatNets to complement terrestrial optic fibre networks.

Issues to be addressed

This would necessitate addressing issues around frequencies to be allocated for satellite broadband, the methodology of allocation, the relatively higher cost of consumer equipment and the placement and interconnections of SatNets with terrestrial public landline/ mobile networks at the ground stations.

The other major challenge in LEO SatNets is the cost of user terminal and access charges to the end users. A recent research analysing both Starlink and OneWeb concludes that the standalone LEO SatNets have a distinct cost advantage only if the density is less than 0.1 person per square km compared to terrestrial broadband networks. Hence it is to the advantage of LEO SatNet providers to integrate their networks with terrestrial 5G networks to improve the cost economies.

Realising the advantages, the Government, in its National Digital Communications Policy 2018, has indicated a number of areas including the development of an ecosystem for local manufacturing of satellite communication systems and promoting participation of private players for the strengthening of satellite communication infrastructure in the country.

Accordingly, the New Space India Limited (NSIL), a public sector enterprise, was established in 2019 under the administrative control of the Department of Space, to reorient space activities from a 'supply driven' model to a 'demand driven' model, thereby ensuring optimum utilisation of the space assets. The Department of Space also established in 2020 a new regulatory body named the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe).

IN-SPACe is intended to provide a level playing field for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure and to promote and guide the private industries in space activities through encouraging policies and a friendly regulatory environment. All these, along with the proposed revisions to the Satellite Communications Policy of the Government, will provide the required fillip to LEO SatNets to become an integral part of the communication infrastructure of the country.

V Sridhar is Professor at IIIT Bangalore. Talleen Kumar is a Member (Finance), Space Commission, Atomic Energy Commission and Earth Commission

STATE OF PLAY

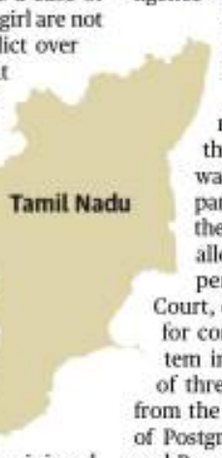
Lessons from Kallakurichi

The State has much to learn from the death of a schoolgirl and the riots that ensued in its wake

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

The people of Tamil Nadu were in for a rude shock on July 17 morning as they watched on TV the scenes of a large number of youth rioting on the premises of a higher secondary school at Kaniyamoor in Kallakurichi district.

The stated purpose of the protesters was to "secure justice" for a Class XII girl student who was found dead on July 13 in the school hostel. While officials view the death as a case of suicide, the parents of the girl are not convinced. It is this conflict over the cause of death that paved the way for the violence. Furniture, school buses, other vehicles, and properties associated with the school were destroyed. Ultimately, it was the police who suffered the most. Nearly 110 personnel, including Deputy Inspector-General of Police (Villupuram range) M. Pandian, were injured. Around 60% of the nearly 100 gutted vehicles belonged to the police. One message could be inferred from the incident, which was that the girl's death was used a ruse to attack the school. The Kallakurichi episode caused a dent on the reputation of the State being a haven of peace.



According to estimates, nearly 3,000 people took part in the violence, many of them having travelled from other districts on two-wheelers. An official said that some of the rioters had even come from the western districts of the State to the school located in the northern region. Some political and social organisations are suspected to have played a role in mobilising the rioters. The attack could have happened in view of the perception that certain key members of the school management subscribed to a particular ideology. Technology came in handy as numerous WhatsApp groups were created. The incident is a classic example of how social media can be misused.

The episode triggered discussions about intelligence failure and why the district administration did not do anything to prevent such a large number of people from going to the school premises. One explanation offered was that the district administration was actively engaged with the parents of the girl and student associations and this could have created a "sense of complacency" among the officials. There are reports that the local police did not pay heed to intelligence inputs about protesters' plans to obstruct traffic on the Salem-Chennai national highway.

When the demand was made for a second autopsy, the district administration was said to have advised the parents of the girl to approach the Madras High Court, which allowed the procedure to be performed. However, the Court, on Friday, dismissed a plea for conducting a third post mortem instead constituting a panel of three forensic science experts from the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (Jipmer), Puducherry, to analyse reports and videos of the two post mortems.

Hours after the violence, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin appealed for peace and assured people that those responsible for the girl's death would be "definitely punished". The government was quick to rush two senior officers to the spot on Sunday evening. The case is now being handled by the CB-CID and, that too, through a special investigation team. The government also effected a shake-up in the administration by shifting the Collector and the Superintendent of Police.

The Kallakurichi violence has underscored the need for the authorities to ensure that no such incident recurs in the State.

(Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on the State's health helpline 104 and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050.)

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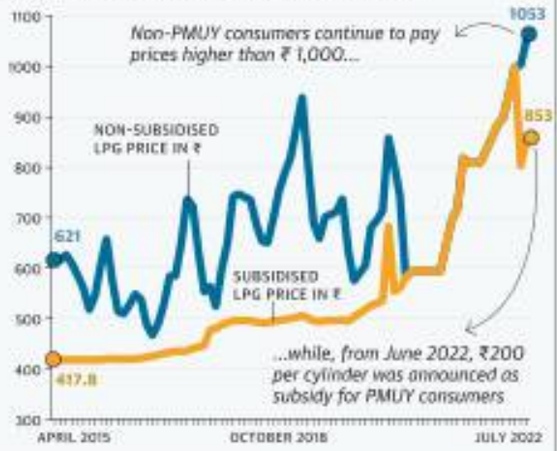
DATA POINT

LPG hits ₹1,000, cylinder refills decline

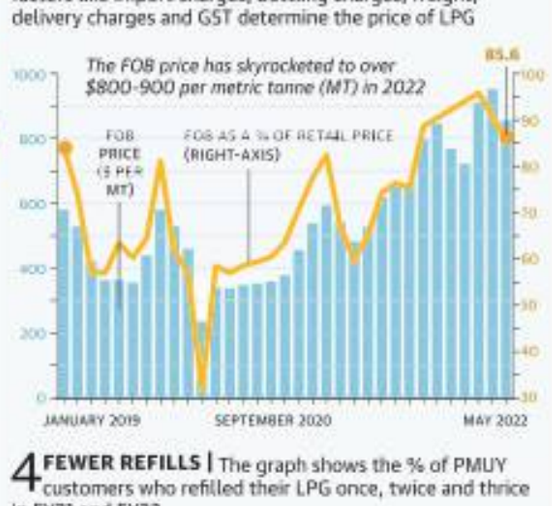
The price of a 14.2 kg cylinder has skyrocketed to ₹1,053 in July 2022. Though a subsidy of ₹200 per cylinder was recently announced for the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries, the subsidised rate of ₹853 is still double the amount paid in 2015. In fact, the government's expenditure on LPG subsides in FY22 has crashed to just ₹242 crores. The steep rise in retail gas prices is also due to the spiralling international LPG prices which now forms 80-90% of the retail cylinder price. The price surge has pushed consumers to lower the number of LPG refills with 5% of the PMUY beneficiaries refilling just once per year in FY22.

By Jasmin Nihalani and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

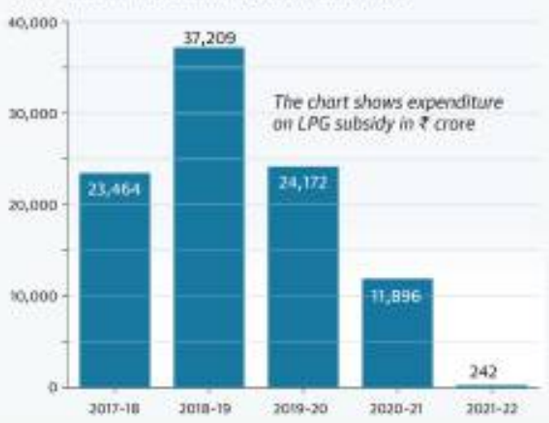
1 THOUSAND AND COUNTING | Between May 2020 and May 2022, no subsidy was declared by the government for domestic cylinders in Delhi. Following a sharp rise in non-subsidised LPG price, consumers have been paying higher market rates, which in May 2022 averaged at ₹999.5 per 14.2 kg cylinder in Delhi



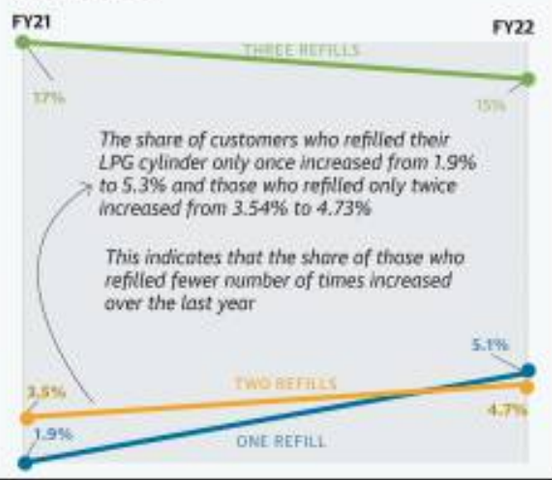
2 INTERNATIONAL PRICE | Currently, over 80-90% of the LPG retail price in Delhi is determined by the international Free On Board (FOB) price of LPG. FOB is the weighted average of Saudi Aramco contract price for Butane (60%) and Propane (40%). Apart from base price, factors like import charges, bottling charges, freight, delivery charges and GST determine the price of LPG



3 SUBSIDY SUBSIDES | The chart depicts the amount of subsidy on LPG given by Central government during each of the last five years. The amount has crashed to ₹242 crore in FY22 from ₹37,209 crore in FY19



4 FEWER REFILLS | The graph shows the % of PMUY customers who refilled their LPG once, twice and thrice in FY21 and FY22



SOURCE: LOK SABHA, PPAC

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 27, 1972

Indo-U.S. ties will improve soon

New Delhi, July 26: The U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Kenneth Keating, left India today with mixed feelings of regret and delight - regret at not being able to do much to improve Indo-American relations, and delight in returning to active politics after prolonged absence. At a farewell luncheon given on the eve of his departure, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh, paid an eloquent tribute to Mr. Keating for all that he had done last year to put the Bangladesh crisis in its proper perspective. Mr. Swaran Singh said India and the U.S. had far too many things in common to let the recent strains affect their long-term interests. He hoped that the present misunderstanding was only a passing phase and that Indo-American relations would improve soon. In his reply, Mr. Keating spoke with equal candour about the "vicissitudes" of his tenure in India with all its high expectations and disappointments. He accepted the assignment as a challenge, and whatever else happened, there was never a dull moment. "We have had our differences," he said, "but I hope that in the coming months, the two countries will look more to the future than the past."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 27, 1922

Grants-in-aid to schools

After a careful consideration of the representations in the Mysore Representative Assembly government direct that educational institutions started in the interests of any particular community restricting admissions to pupils of that community on grounds of religious belief, social customs or other reasonable cause, may in future be declared eligible for grant-in-aid subject to the usual rates of recognition. With a view to advance the representative character of the Assembly, the Government of Mysore, having considered the question of election of members to the Assembly by recognised associations, direct that one member be allowed for each association and that the quorum required for meetings of non-official Members held for the election of such Members of the Assembly be fixed at 25 irrespective of the number of members of the Association. The Mysore Special Finance Committee having recommended certain reorganisations in the Government Secretariat, the Government have today issued orders with regard to the Muzarai Department, amalgamating same with the Revenue Secretariat.

FROM PAGE ONE

Can promises of freebies be curbed, SC asks govt.

"The Finance Commission is an independent body. The Commission, while making allocations to the States, can take into account the debts of each individual States and examine whether offers of freebies would be viable for them," Mr. Sibal suggested.

The Bench turned to Mr. Nataraj and asked him to explore this avenue and get instructions from the government. It scheduled the next hearing for August 3.

The hearing came on a writ petition filed by BJP leader and lawyer, Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who had argued that the offer and distribution of "irrational freebies" amounted to bribery and unduly influencing voters. It vitiated free and fair elections. Mr. Upadhyay claimed that the States in total had debts of over ₹70 lakh crore. He suggested that the Law Commission of India be asked to examine the statutes to control the giving away of unreasonable freebies.

Spurious liquor claims 36 lives in dry Gujarat

The police have invoked Sections 302 (murder), 328 (causing hurt by poison) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code. , DGP Ashish Bhatia said blood samples of the deceased confirmed that they had consumed methanol.

As per an FIR lodged at the Barvala police station in Botad, bootleggers sold this hooch to several people in Rojid, Ranpari, Chandarva, Devgana, Chokdi and a few other villages on July 25. The deceased also included people from villages of Ahmedabad district as they had come to Botad district to consume liquor.

Gajuben Vaddariya, a bootlegger in Rojid village, told the police that she had bought 20 litres of methanol for ₹2,000 from one Pintu Devipujak. The State Home Department has formed a three-member committee, headed by senior IPS officer Subhash Trivedi, to conduct an inquiry and submit a report within three days, a release said. The tragedy has once again exposed the reality of prohibition in Gujarat. "There is rampant bootlegging of liquor, thanks to the nexus of bootleggers and police and patronage provided by the BJP leaders," said Congress MLA Amit Chavda.

No complaint of assault at pub: Mangaluru police

During the inquiry of students, the police found that eight of the 18 students in the pub were aged below 21, who cannot be served liquor. "We have reported this to Excise Department," Mr. Kumar said.

Mangaluru City North MLA Y. Bharath Shetty claimed that the Hindutva organisation members "did not raid" the pub, but they had "only enquired" with the bar manager and the bouncer about serving liquor to underaged students.

Democratic Youth Federation of India State president Muneer Katipalla said criminal action should be initiated against Bajarang Dal members for abusing partying students and forcing them to leave the place. He questioned the "soft stand" of the police in the episode against the Hindutva group. This pub is the same one (then called Amnesia) where Sri Rama Sene members had beaten up youth coming out of a party in 2009.

SC to hear petition against EC's proceedings on 'real' Shiv Sena

CJI orders listing of application with other Maharashtra crisis cases on August 1

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Uddhav Thackeray loyalists on Tuesday sought an urgent hearing by the Supreme Court of their application against Election Commission (EC) proceedings on Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's claim for recognition as the "real" Shiv Sena with right to the party symbol of "bow and arrow".

In an oral mentioning before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Devadatt Kamat said the court should stop the EC proceedings from going on. The court was already looking into every facet of the entire gamut of legal issues connected to the recent developments in Maharashtra politics, right from the breaking away of Mr. Shinde and his supporters to the resignation of Mr. Thackeray as Chief Minister, to the floor test and so on.

"They are claiming the party and the symbol. The Election Commission is going ahead with the proceedings when this court is seized of the issue," Mr. Sibal submitted.

Senior advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul, for Mr. Shinde, countered that the court had only stayed the hand of the Assembly Speaker in continuing with the disqualification proceedings against certain legislators. The EC had issued notice for hearing on August 8, several days after the Supreme Court hearing, fixed for August 1. The CJI ordered the Thackeray camp's application to be listed along with the other Maharashtra crisis cases on the same date.

"Despite being asked not to precipitate the matter and stay its hand, the Hon'ble ECI has decided to initiate proceedings... Such proceedings will be in the teeth of settled law that an inquiry into a matter which is sub judice before the court amounts to interference with the judicial proceedings," the application said.

On July 20, a Bench led by Chief Justice Ramana had queried whether the dissent of Mr. Shinde's faction amounted to a "split" from the original Shiv Sena party.

A "split" from the original political party without a subsequent merger with another party or formation of a new faction is no longer a defence from disqualification under the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) of the Constitution. While agreeing to look into this question in depth, the apex court had asked the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker to maintain status quo on the disqualification proceedings against MLAs from both Shinde and Thackeray factions.

2 BSF personnel killed in anti-UN protest in Congo

Peacekeeping force terms it war crime

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Two Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, part of the United Nations Peacekeeping contingent, were killed in violent armed protests in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Tuesday, a BSF spokesperson said.

It was on Monday that local people had given a call for protest against MONUSCO, the French acronym for the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Two BSF platoons deployed in Beni and Butembo were on high alert.

While all was quiet on Monday, the situation turned violent in Butembo on Tuesday. "The camp of Morroco Rapid Deployment where BSF platoons are stationed was surrounded by demonstrators. Congolese Police (PNC) and Congolese Army (FARDC) arrived but could not control the crowd estimated to be over 500 people," the official said.

In the ensuing violence, the two BSF personnel died of fatal injuries. The names of the deceased are being withheld till their families are informed.

A press statement by MONUSCO said, "Attackers violently snatched weapons from elements of the National Police Congolese Army and fired point-blank at our peacekeeping forces."

It added that the attacks against its personnel, facilities and operations constitute war crimes subject to proceedings before international courts.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar tweeted his condolence.

CJI calls for practice of honest journalism

'Media must not yield to pressures'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

N.V. Ramana

Media houses with other business interests and multiple ventures become vulnerable to "external pressures" and compromise democracy, Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said on July 26.

"You may recall that only media houses without business baggage were able to fight for democracy during the dark days of Emergency," the Chief Justice said.

"All I want to say is that the media must confine itself to honest journalism without using it as a tool to expand its influence and business interests," the CJI said. He was speaking at the launch of *Gita Vijnana Upanishad* authored by Gulab Chand Kothari. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla was present. The speech comes only a couple of days after Chief Justice Ramana made scathing remarks about debates on electronic media and social media, calling them "kangaroo courts".

"When a media house has other business interests, it becomes vulnerable to external pressures. Often, the business interests prevail over the spirit of independent journalism. As a result, democracy gets compromised," the CJI said. He said independent journalism was the backbone of democracy.

"It is the responsibility of media houses to present facts. Especially in the Indian social scenario, people believe that whatever is printed is true," he noted.

The top judge noted that there was a "huge lacuna when it comes to systemic support for journalists in India".

BJP leader, accused of running brothel, held

Marak will be brought to hometown Tura for questioning

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Bernard Marak

Meghalaya BJP vice-president Bernard R. Marak, accused of running a brothel, was arrested in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, the police said. The BJP leader was absconding following a police raid at his 30-room farmhouse on the outskirts of Tura in Meghalaya's West Garo Hills district. Five minors were rescued from the place and 73 others, including 23 women, were arrested from the place on July 22.

"Based on our information, the Hapur district police arrested him while he was travelling in a private taxi on the national highway. Our police team will be reaching Uttar Pradesh tomorrow [Wednesday] and bring him back to Tura for questioning," Meghalaya's Director-General of Police L.R. Bishnoi told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Marak, a former extremist leader, was arrested a day after the Chief Judicial Magistrate in Tura issued a non-bailable warrant against him.

State toughens stand

The warrant coincided with Meghalaya's coalition government toughening its stand against the BJP leader while reacting to State BJP president Ernest Mawrie's demand for withdrawing all charges "laced with political motivations" against him.

The government is led by the National People's Party (NPP) and the BJP is one of its minor partners.

Mr. Mawrie also echoed Mr. Marak in accusing State Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma of orchestrating the raid and linking it to a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act case in February as part of a "conspiracy" to destroy his political career.

"We cannot withdraw the charges just because the accused is a BJP vice-president. The law is the same for everyone," Meghalaya's Deputy Chief Minister and senior NPP leader Prestone Tynsong told journalists in State capital Shillong.

Assembly panel steps in

The Meghalaya Assembly Committee on Empowerment of Women has asked the State's Social Welfare Department to update it on the status of the five minors rescued from the BJP leader's farmhouse.

A report has been sought on August 8.

IN BRIEF

ED files chargesheet against Farooq Abdullah

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a supplementary chargesheet against former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah and others in connection with the alleged embezzlement of the State cricket association's funds. A special court has issued notices for them to appear before it on August 27. Among those arraigned are former J&K Cricket Association treasurer Ahsan Ahmad Mirza, and Mir Manzoor Gazanffer, who had been a member of its finance committee from 2006 to 2009. Mr. Abdullah was its president during the check period.

Child Marriage Bill panel to seek extension

NEW DELHI

The parliamentary panel constituted to examine the Bill that seeks to raise the age of marriage for women to 21 is likely to seek yet another extension for three months to submit its report. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Women, Children, Youth and Sports Affairs, which is examining the provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021, appointed in January, was given three months till March to submit its report, and was later granted an extension till June 24. A second extension followed and the panel was given time till July 24.

'2,399 Bangladeshis intercepted in 5 years'

NEW DELHI

In the past five years, 2,399 Bangladeshi nationals were intercepted at the International Border check posts with "fraudulently obtained Indian documents", the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. Responding to a question by member Ranjanben Dhananjay Bhatt, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said that State Governments had been advised to share the particulars of illegal migrants.

ED quizzes Sonia again, Congress holds protest

"Look at the dictatorship, cannot hold peaceful demonstrations, cannot discuss inflation and unemployment. By misusing the police and agencies, even by arresting us, you will never be able to silence us. Only 'Truth' will end this dictatorship," Mr. Gandhi tweeted, sharing pictures of police personnel physically taking him away.

"The country's 'King' has ordered – whosoever asks questions on unemployment, inflation, wrong GST, Agnipath – put them in jail. Even though I am in custody now, even though it may be considered a crime to raise the voice of the people in the country now, they will never be able to break our spirits," Mr. Gandhi added.

MPs Mr. Kharge, K.C. Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh, Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Manickam Tagore, among others, were all detained and taken to the Kingsway Camp police lines in north Delhi.

Mr. Kharge alleged that they were manhandled by the police and claimed this was being done at the insistence of Mr. Modi, and Home Minister Amit Shah. "This is a conspiracy by the Modi-Shah duo," he said as he was being taken away by police.

A video of Delhi Police personnel manhandling Indian Youth Congress president Srinivas B.V., who was being pulled by his hair, also went viral on social media platforms.

Centre to buy arms worth ₹28,732 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry on Tuesday approved the procurement of military equipment and weapons worth ₹28,732 crore, including swarm drones, carbines and bulletproof jackets. The procurement proposals were cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council headed by Minister Rajnath Singh. "The Acceptance of Necessity for capital acquisition proposals of the armed forces amounting to ₹28,732 crore were accorded by the DAC," the Ministry said.

The approval came amid India's over two-year-long border row with China in eastern Ladakh.

Fellowship delay hits research scholars

They have approached the UGC and Ministry, but not received satisfactory reply

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars working in various universities in India have approached the Minority Affairs Ministry and the Union Grants Commission (UGC) complaining about the delay of about nine months in disbursal of the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF).

The research scholars say this is the first time there has been such a delay. Both the UGC and the Ministry have not given a proper reply to their calls and letters. Though for most of the scholars the delay is from October 2021, for some, it is from March 2022

Naseera Neeloth, a Ph.D. scholar with the Department of Women's Studies, says she has not got the fellowship since March 2022. "It used to be regular, the longest gap being two months even during the pandemic. Now, since March, I haven't got my fellowship despite submitting all documents regularly," she said.

Ishfaq Majid, a researcher from Central University of Gujarat, is in a similar predicament. "The scholars are at an advanced stage of research and a lot of them are engaged in field work, collecting data. Financial crunch hampers research work to a great extent," he said.

Lok Sabha member from Kerala E.T. Mohammed Basheer has taken up their grievance with UGC Chairman M. Jagdesh Kumar.

The scholars received a mail from the Scholarship Division of Canara Bank attributing the delay in disbursal of fellowship to the change in financial year. The fellowship would be credited soon, they were promised. After about 10 days, the scholars contacted the Ministry of Minority Affairs and were told that the sanction for release of funds to the UGC had been processed. After waiting for five more days, the scholars contacted the Ministry and the UGC and were informed that "an amount of ₹24.61 crore has been approved to the UGC".

"We were told that we will receive the fellowship very soon. But nothing has happened yet," Ms. Neeloth said. Another mail from the Ministry said revised procedure for release of funds was under process and the students would definitely receive fellowship very shortly. On July 6, two scholars of MANF visited the UGC and submitted an application with 40 signatures requesting immediate disbursement of fellowship.

"There are some issues between UGC and MOMA and fellowship will be disbursed once they were resolved, they told us," Mr. Majid said.

Calls to MoMA secretary Renuka Kumar and Joint Secretary in charge of scholarships Niva Singh did not elicit any response.

Record bids on spectrum auction Day 1

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters that "₹1.45 lakh crore is a very important number because this shows that the industry now is moving towards positive territory".

"It will now focus on investments, focus on creating more employment, providing better quality of service," he said.

"The previous record was ₹1.09 lakh crore [in 2015 auctions]. This much response for 5G clearly shows that the industry has turned from its difficult times."The four rounds of bidding also saw "good" demand for spectrum in the prestigious 700 MHz band that had remained unsold in the two previous auctions held in 2016 and 2021, because of higher price. Airwaves in the mid (3,300 MHz) and high (26 GHz) frequency bands also attracted strong bids.

The Minister said the government had set a target of August 15 for the allocation of spectrum. He added that 5G services were expected to begin by September or October.

'Maharashtra, Odisha, Bihar want caste census'

Caste details not enumerated: MHA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that the State governments of Bihar, Maharashtra and Odisha have requested to collect caste details in the next Census but castes other than Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) have not been enumerated since Independence.

In a written reply to a question by member T.R. Baalu, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said, "The intent of the Government for conducting Census 2021 was notified in Gazette of India on 28 March, 2019. Due to outbreak of COVID-19, the Census 2021 and related field activities have been postponed." The reply added that the forthcoming Census is to be the first digital Census. Mobile apps for collection of data and a Census Portal for management and monitoring of Census related activities have been developed, it said.

BJP committed to national security: Nadda

'Political leaders will always stand by armed forces'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Honouring martyrs: J.P. Nadda paying homage on Tuesday to soldiers who died during the Kargil war. • TWITTER/@JPNADDA

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Tuesday said that his party will always remain committed to national security and the armed forces can be rest assured that the political leadership at the helm was honest in standing by them.

Mr. Nadda on Tuesday asserted that his party will always remain committed to national security and the armed forces can be rest assured that the political leadership is standing by them with honesty.

Mr. Nadda was addressing an event at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi to mark 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' the anniversary of India's victory in the Kargil War. The remarks also come against the backdrop of large-scale protests that had taken place around Agnipath, the new armed forces recruitment scheme that ended permanent recruitment, replacing it with a four-year stint.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, the armed forces suffered from a shortage of arms and ammunition, Mr. Nadda said, adding that the earlier governments shied away from improving border infrastructure on the India-China border because they thought it would "anger" China. "Defence deals were marred by scams, due to which, for many years, crucial defence purchases were avoided for fear of scams," he added.

19 Rajya Sabha members suspended in one go

They were in the Well demanding a discussion on the rise in the prices and a rollback of GST on essential commodities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nineteen MPs were on Tuesday suspended from attending the Rajya Sabha for the remainder of the week for disrupting the House proceedings and demanding a discussion on price rise and a rollback of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on essentials.

The suspended MPs included seven from the Trinamool Congress, six from the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), three from the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), two from the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and one from the Communist Party of India (CPI). Later, the House was adjourned for the day as the Chair appealed to the suspended members to withdraw from the House, but they continued to remain in the Well of the House.

Those suspended are Sushmita Dev, Mausam Noor, Shanta Chhetri, Dola Sen, Santunu Sen, Abir Ranjan Biswas and Nadimul Haque of the Trinamool Congress; M. Mohamed Abdulla, Kanimozhi, N.V.N. Somu, M. Shanmugam, S. Kalyanasundaram, R. Girirajan and N.R. Elango of the DMK; B. Lingaiah Yadav, Ravichandra Vaddiraju and Damodar Rao Divakonda of the TRS; V. Sivadasan and A.A. Rahim of the CPI(M); and Sandosh Kumar of CPI.

This is the highest number of single-batch suspension following the suspension of four Congress members from the Lok Sabha on Monday for the rest of the Monsoon Session. Last November, as many as 12 MPs from Opposition parties were suspended for the entire Winter Session in the Rajya Sabha.

Continuing protests: Opposition members protesting in the Rajya Sabha in New Delhi on Tuesday. • PTI

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V. Muraleedharan moved a motion to suspend 10 MPs in the Rajya Sabha. When it was adopted by a voice vote, Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh read out the names of 19 members who have been suspended for the rest of the week.

Scenes of ruckus

In the morning, the Upper House paid tributes to the soldiers martyred during the Kargil war. As soon as papers were laid on the table of the House, Opposition MPs stormed into the Well of the House demanding a rollback of the GST on certain essential goods. Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu, without even taking up the notices before him, adjourned the House till noon.

Deputy Chairman Harivansh insisted they will be allowed to ask questions only if the Opposition members return to their seats. When the House assembled, similar scenes of ruckus continued. Deputy Chairman Harivansh adjourned the House for 15 minutes at 12.05 p.m.

But even after that, the pandemonium continued and the Question Hour was taken up amid ruckus. There was a question on the changes in the GST slabs.

Many Opposition members wanted to ask supplementary questions on this, but the Deputy Chairman insisted that they will be allowed to ask questions only if the Opposition members go back to their seats. Mr. Harivansh warned the protesting members against showing placards, saying he will be forced to invoke Rule 256 and name the members if the ruckus continued.

When the House resumed at 2 p.m., MPs continued to be in the Well of the House and Mr. Harivansh said they were disrupting the House and not letting others to speak. The MPs were then suspended and the House adjourned for 15 minutes.

When it resumed, the suspended MPs refused to heed to the Chair's appeals to leave the House, leading to another adjournment for one hour.

The House was finally adjourned until Wednesday.

Congress members walk out of Lok Sabha

They flag 'misuse' of central agencies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The first half of Lok Sabha proceedings on Tuesday witnessed two disruptions after Opposition members demanded that there should be an immediate discussion on price rise and imposition of Goods and Services tax (GST) on essential items.

Congress members also raised the issue of 'misuse' of central agencies on a day when party chief Sonia Gandhi was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the *National Herald* case.

As soon as the House assembled at 11 a.m., Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla paid tributes to soldiers on Kargil Vijay Divas. Soon Opposition members went into the Well of the House and started shouting slogans and waving placards on the issue of high inflation and the GST imposition.

Congress members in the Well were carrying placards seeking rollback of GST rates on prices of essential commodities and petroleum products.

While a few placards carried by Opposition members had the picture of Mahatma Gandhi with *Satyameva Jayate* written on it, some members were heard shouting, "The rule of ED will not be tolerated."

"I will allow you to speak during Zero Hour. Please go back to your seats and take part in the proceedings," Mr. Birla said. However, as the appeal did not have much effect, he adjourned the House for about 30 minutes, until 11.45 a.m.

Suspended members

When the House reassembled, DMK members came into the Well and started raising slogans and demanded revocation of suspension of four Congress members. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Supriya Sule was also seen raising slogans from her seat.

While the Congress members had walked out of the House to take part in a march outside the Lok Sabha, BJP member Rajendra Agarwal, who was in the Chair, took up the remaining part of the Question Hour and allowed the laying of papers on the table of the House before adjourning the House until 2 p.m.

Four Congress members – Manickam Tagore, Ramya Haridas, T.N. Prathapan and S. Jothimani - who were suspended on Monday for the rest of the session, continued their protest.

PM congratulates Sri Lanka's President

Amid crisis, he was elected on July 20

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sent a congratulatory message to Sri Lanka's newly elected President Ranil Wickremesinghe, nearly a week after his rise to the nation's helm amid political upheaval triggered by a severe economic meltdown.

Ranil Wickremesinghe

Mr. Modi's outreach to Mr. Wickremesinghe follows messages from Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin to the Sri Lankan leader, who is counting on urgent international support to cope with the deepening crisis. The Indian High Commission in Colombo, which put out a tweet on July 20 – the day of Mr. Wickremesinghe's election in Parliament – noted the development but stopped short of congratulating him. This was hours after the Indian mission "categorically denied" media reports of India attempting to "influence" the key parliament vote.

"You have assumed the high office at a critical time for Sri Lanka," Mr. Modi said in the letter dated July 25.

Expressing hope that Mr. Wickremesinghe's tenure would "nurture" economic stability and "fulfill the aspirations of all citizens", he said: "As a close friend and neighbour of Sri Lanka, India will continue to be supportive of the quest of the people of Sri Lanka for stability and economic recovery, through established democratic means, institutions and constitutional framework."

The message reiterated India's emphasis on assisting the "people of Sri Lanka". On Tuesday, Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay paid "a courtesy call" on newly appointed Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and Foreign Minister Ali Sabry.

Aid from Tamil Nadu

As Sri Lanka's crisis aggravated, India emerged its top creditor, stepping in with crucial assistance of $3.8 billion so far, by way of currency swaps, loan deferments and credit lines for essential imports. On Tuesday, a large consignment of rice, milk powder and medicines arrived as part of donations from Tamil Nadu. This was the third consignment from the State, which has extended nearly 40,000 MT of rice, 500 MT of milk powder and more than 100 MT of medicines totalling around $22 million.

Dhankhar gives up his SC chamber

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president, senior advocate Vikas Singh, on Tuesday wrote to the apex court to exclude the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Vice-Presidential candidate and senior advocate Jagdeep Dhankhar's name from the top court lawyers' chambers allotment list.

The letter highlighted that Mr. Dhankhar, keeping the interest of the Bar at heart, has "conveyed his wish to voluntarily withdraw from the process of chamber allotment so that other lawyers in need of a chamber may be allotted the same". Chambers are allotted within the court to lawyers to meet litigants conveniently. Many have been waiting in line for chamber space for years.

The allotments are made by a committee appointed by the Chief Justice of India and is subject to his approval.

Will continue to turn to Kovind for counsel: Modi

'Former President's journey a parable for India's evolution'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed former President Ram Nath Kovind's personal journey from a small village to the highest office in the country "a parable for our country's evolution and development, and an inspiration for our society".

He said this in a letter that he wrote to Mr. Kovind on the eve of the latter demitting the office of President of India on July 24. Mr. Modi also stated that he would continue to turn to Mr. Kovind for advice and counsel.

Mr. Kovind took to Twitter to thank Mr. Modi for his "kind words". "This letter from Prime Minister has deeply touched me. I take his kind and heartfelt words as a reflection of the love and respect fellow citizens have showered on me. I am sincerely grateful to you all," he said in a tweet.

Former President Ram Nath Kovind with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"As your term draws to an end, I join the entire nation in saluting you and extending our deepest gratitude for your outstanding service as the President of our Republic and for a long and distinguished career in public life. You set the highest standards of principles, probity and performance, and of sensitivity and service," Mr. Modi wrote.

He also paid tribute to Mr. Kovind's personal journey from a small village in Uttar Pradesh to the Rashtrapati Bhavan. "Through your life and career, you have persevered with determination and dignity, with a deep commitment to the morality and integrity that is at the core of the Indian ethos, and with the highest regard and responsibility towards the principles of our Constitution," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister also remembered their tour together to Paraunkh, Mr. Kovind's native village, and said he was particularly touched to see how Mr. Kovind had donated his family residence to help others.

"Equally special was your gesture of visiting my mother and talking to her on several issues. It showed your deep-rooted commitment to the value-systems integral to our land," Mr. Modi said.

Against ritual animal killing; for snake worship

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday saw two interventions by two members which pertained to the treatment of animals.

Raising the issue when matters under Rule 377 were allowed in the Lok Sabha, Sunil Kumar Soni, BJP MP for Raipur in Chhattisgarh, said that there was a need to rescind Section 28 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which allowed killing of animals as part of religious observances. He raised objections to the killing of animals such as goats, buffaloes and camels to mark religious observances, by untrained people and in "extreme cruel manner".

Dhairyasheel Sambhaji Rao Mane of the Shiv Sena, representing the Hatkanangale constituency, demanded that the worship of live snakes in Shirola village under his constituency on Nag Panchami, which had been going on for centuries, be permitted as it was now not so under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

MISSING

Pradeep Gupta, aged 49, seen in this photograph was dropped by Tian's friends in the disabled coach of Train No. 05304 Ernakulam - Gorakhpur - Special - from Ernakulam South Railway Station to Lucknow on 27.06.2022 at 23.59 PM, but Tian did not reach his home in Lucknow or Ernakulam till date. For this a case was registered and the investigation is going on.

Identification

167 cm Height, Bicolor, He was wearing a red t-Shirt and blue jeans when he went missing. There is a black mole on the left cheek and a black scar on the left elbow.

Ernakulam
13.07.22

Sd/- Sub Inspector of Police,
Railway Police Station, Ernakulam.
Mob.: 9495769890.

RO/01848/F2/2022/I&PRD

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Tel: 044-24349833 / 24346807
CIN - L40101TN1965GOI005389

EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2022 (₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		Three Months Ended			Year Ended	Three Months Ended			Year Ended
		30.06.2022	31.03.2022	30.06.2021	31.03.2022	30.06.2022	31.03.2022	30.06.2021	31.03.2022
		Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited
1.	Total income from operations	27449.52	20997.13	12797.39	60474.29	27449.52	20997.13	12797.39	60474.29
	Other Income	3.94	13.33	1.78	23.66	3.94	13.34	1.78	17.74
	Total Income	**27453.46**	**21010.46**	**12799.17**	**60497.95**	**27453.46**	**21010.47**	**12799.17**	**60492.03**
	Total Expenditure	24254.16	19643.47	12725.32	58666.31	24254.20	19643.54	12725.34	58666.37
2.	**Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)**	**3199.30**	**1366.99**	**73.85**	**1831.64**	**3198.13**	**1374.49**	**76.77**	**1841.25**
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	3199.30	1366.99	73.85	1831.64	3198.13	1374.49	76.77	1841.25
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	2358.79	994.42	53.73	1342.42	2357.62	1001.92	56.65	1352.03
5.	**Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]**	**2358.79**	**1017.66**	**53.73**	**1365.66**	**2357.62**	**1025.42**	**56.65**	**1375.53**
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 10 each)	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				2391.28				2567.78
8.	Securities Premium Account				250.04				250.04
9.	Networth				2790.23				2966.73
10.	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt (Bonds / Debentures) excluding Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares				8722.70				8722.70
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares (50,00,00,000 [2020:50,00,00,000] Non-Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of ₹ 10 each) (Not listed)				500.00				500.00
12.	Debt Equity Ratio				3.31				3.09
13.	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)								
	(i) Basic (₹ / share)	158.40	66.78	3.61	90.15	158.32	67.28	3.80	90.80
	(ii) Diluted (₹ / share)	158.40	66.78	3.61	90.15	158.32	67.28	3.80	90.80
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve				700.00				700.00
15.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio				2.59				2.60
16.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio				6.66				6.69

Note:

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. The same is also available on the company's website www.cpcl.co.in

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Rajeev Allawadi
Director (Finance)
DIN: 07826722

Place : New Delhi
Date : July 25, 2022

IN BRIEF

Third Vande Bharat train to roll out for trials

NEW DELHI

Chasing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of running 75 *Vande Bharat* trains in 75 weeks, the third such train will leave the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai on August 12 for trials, sources said on Tuesday. The semi-high speed (160-200 kilometres per hour) train is likely to be run on a specific route in South India from November. While it is yet to be confirmed, Mr. Modi could flag off the train. Currently, two *Vande Bharat* trains are operational, running between Delhi and Katra, and Delhi and Varanasi. PTI

Power engineers oppose Electricity Bill, 2022

GUWAHATI

A national organisation of power engineers and employees has opposed the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022. The Bill was framed without taking the 27 lakh electricity engineers and employees in India into confidence, the Assam and Meghalaya branches of the National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE) said on Tuesday. The committee threatened to resort to nationwide strikes if the Bill is tabled in Parliament and passed.

CBI registers case against ex-RS member, others

NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case against former Rajya Sabha member K.D. Singh, his son, and seven others, for alleged misappropriation of about ₹100 crore invested by a large number of persons in two chit fund companies. The case was earlier registered at the Kotwali Police Station in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh. The CBI took over the probe on the State government's reference. Among those named in the case are Mr. Singh's son Karandeep Singh, Satyendra Singh, V.M. Mahajan, C.M. Jolly, Krishna Kabir, Sucheta Khemkar, Chandrasekhar Chauhan, and Sushil Kumar Rai.

Lok Sabha passes Family Courts (Amendment) Bill

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2022 which proposes to give retrospective statutory cover to the family courts already operating in Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland. While two family courts have been functioning in Nagaland since September 2008, three were set up in Himachal Pradesh in February 2019. However, they were not notified by the Central government, as required under the then existing law. The matter came up last year during the proceedings in the Himachal Pradesh High Court pertaining to a case.

Officials deny shortage of drugs to fight HIV

Group of patients protesting over a lack of medicines

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Denying allegations of a shortage of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, official sources have said there is adequate stock nationally for around 95% of those living with HIV who are on first- and second-line drug regimens in the country.

A group of HIV patients have been protesting against shortage.

Sources said on Tuesday that the protesters had been informed about the position regarding drug availability and they were told to jointly work with State-level AIDS control societies and the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) for the availability of drugs at those few centres facing a temporary shortage.

"Individual antiretroviral therapy (ART) centres may have this issue at times, but the medicines are immediately made available from nearby centres," a Health Ministry source said.

There is adequate stock nationally for around 95% of the HIV-positive people in the country who are on first- and second-line ARV regimens, he said. "There is no reported stock-out for any ARV drugs at the State level, and the fresh supply orders for procurement of the next lot of several drugs are already placed," the source said.

A view of the ART Centre in Udupi, Karnataka. • FILE PHOTO

The Central Medical Services Society has been requested to supply the first lot of the drugs at the earliest to ensure that before the present stock runs out, the fresh lot of drugs would have been received, the official source added.

India is one of the few countries that provides free medicines for life-long treatment of more than 14.5 lakh HIV-positive people through 680 ART centres under its National AIDS Control Programme, which is fully funded by the Government of India. The NACO centrally procures the drugs following national guidelines.

"The mainstay of treatment for more than 85% of the HIV-positive people is the TLD (a fixed-dose combination of three antiretroviral drugs, Tenofovir (300 mg), Lamivudine (300 mg) and Dolutegravir (50 mg), for which there is sufficient stock nationally for more than three months," the source said.

The 50-mg Dolutegravir tablet is required for nearly 50,000 of those who are either on alternative first-, second- or third-line regimens or those with TB co-infection, it said.

India adds five more Ramsar sites

Three of them are in Tamil Nadu and one each is in Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

India has added five more Ramsar sites, or wetlands of international importance, bringing the number of such sites in the country to 54, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said on Tuesday.

"Delighted to inform that 5 more Indian wetlands have got Ramsar recognition as wetlands of international importance," Mr. Yadav tweeted.

These are the Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest and Pichavaram Mangrove in Tamil Nadu, the Sakhya Sagar in Madhya Pradesh and the Pala Wetlands in Mizoram.

Vital sinks: A view of the Pallikaranai marshland in Chennai. • K. PICHUMANI

India's Ramsar wetlands are spread over 11,000 sq.km – around 10% of the total wetland area in the country – across 18 States. No other South Asian country has as many sites, though this has much to do with India's geographical breadth and tropical diversity. The U.K. (175) and Mexico (142) – smaller countries than India – have the most Ramsar sites, whereas Bolivia spans the largest area with 1,48,000 sq.km under the Convention protection.

Being designated a Ramsar site does not necessarily invite extra international funds, but the States – and the Centre – must ensure that these tracts of land are conserved and spared from encroachment. Acquiring this label also helps with a locale's tourism potential and its international visibility. Until 1981, India had 41 Ramsar sites, though the past decade has seen the sharpest rise –13 – in designating new sites.

Wetlands, according to the Environment Ministry, are an "area of marsh, fen, peatland or water; whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres, but does not include river channels, paddy fields, human-made water bodies/tanks specifically constructed for drinking water purposes and structures specifically constructed for aquaculture, salt production, recreation and irrigation purposes."

To be Ramsar site, however, it must meet at least one of nine criteria as defined by the Ramsar Convention of 1961, such as supporting vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities or, if it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds or, is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks are dependent upon.

The National Wetland Inventory and Assessment compiled by the ISRO estimates India's wetlands to span around 1,52,600 square kilometres.

Generation of unique disability IDs ramped up

Campaign may be extended till Aug. 15

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The generation of unique disability IDs (UDIDs) had increased from an average of 5,000 a day to an average of 7,000 to 9,000 daily during the 90-day *Azadi Se Antodaya Tak* campaign, officials of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities of the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry said on Tuesday.

The campaign was launched on April 28 by the Union government to improve enrolment in several schemes across Ministries in 75 districts identified for their connection with freedom fighters as a part of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*. The campaign, led by the Rural Development Ministry, was supposed to wrap up on July 28, but could be extended till August 15, according to sources.

Directive to States

When the campaign started, the department had written to the States asking them to expedite generation of the unique IDs for people with disabilities.

As of May 2, a total of 72,06,947 IDs had been generated since the UDID project started in 2016.

This number climbed to 78,12,977, showing an increase of six lakh since the start of the campaign , an official said on Tuesday morning.

Online issue

The department had made it mandatory for States to issue the UDIDs through its online portal from June 1, 2021 onwards.

In a tweet on Tuesday, the department said it had generated 16,423 UDID cards in the previous 48 hours, with the highest number in Uttar Pradesh (4,601), followed by Kerala (1,945), Maharashtra (1,304) and Uttarakhand (388).

Since its launch, the UDID project has been slow to gather steam, with activists, the disabled and the parliamentary panel on social justice raising concerns over the years.

According to the 2011 Census, there were 2.68 crore people with disabilities.

The standing committee in its report on February 12, 2021, noted that 1.5 crore legacy certificates had been brought onto the UDID portal, which would allow the States to just upload the revalidated certificate to generate a UDID.

DGCA looking at SpiceJet's reply to notice

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is "examining" SpiceJet's reply to the show-cause notice the regulator served on the airline for its failure to ensure safety following a spate of mid-flight incidents.

The aviation safety regulator served the notice on the airline on July 6, giving it three weeks to respond. The deadline ended at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. At the time of the notice, SpiceJet had seen at least eight incidents and one accident since May.

The DGCA said that it reviewed several incidents the airline was involved in and found instances of "degraded safety margins".

Third parties joining CPEC is inherently illegal: India

Reiterates importance of PoK in Indian scheme of things

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Days after China and Pakistan held a meeting to bring other countries into the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), India on Tuesday said that efforts to broaden CPEC's scope are "inherently illegal".

"We have seen reports on encouraging a proposed participation of third countries in the so-called CPEC projects. Any such actions by any party directly infringe on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. India firmly and consistently opposes projects in the so-called CPEC, which are in Indian territory that has been illegally occupied by Pakistan," said Arindam Bagchi, Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Arindam Bagchi

The Joint Working Group of International Cooperation and Coordination under CPEC met on July 21, when the Pakistani and Chinese officials discussed bringing in a third county into the fold.

CPEC consists of a number of infrastructure projects that are under construction across Pakistan and is aimed at connecting China overland with the Gulf countries by cutting through the Himalayan range in Gilgit Baltistan and the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Soon after coming to power in Afghanistan last year, the Taliban had expressed desire to join the infrastructure project. Mr. Bagchi reminded Taliban and similar potential third parties of the problems associated with the CPEC, saying, "Such activities are inherently illegal, illegitimate and unacceptable, and will be treated accordingly by India."

FIR against Ranveer Singh for nude shoot

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Mumbai police on Tuesday registered an FIR against Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh for posting his nude photographs on social media. The FIR has been filed on a complaint lodged by one Lalit Tekchandani at the Chembur police station under Sections 292, 293, 509 of the IPC and provisions of the IT Act. Mr. Singh did a photoshoot for a magazine, where he posed completely nude. Last Thursday, the actor's nude pictures posted on Instagram had gone viral, the police said.

Mr. Tekchandani alleged that the actor has hurt the sentiments of women through his photographs.

(With PTI inputs)

Minister seeks Central probe into death of monk

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Shekhawat has demanded an inquiry by an independent Central agency into the self-immolation on July 23 and subsequent death of monk Baba Vijay Das, who was among a group of seers who had been agitating for long to shut down illegal mining near Deeg in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan.

The hills of Kankachal and Adi Badri near Deeg form part of the famous Braj Chaurasi pilgrimage circuit.

Seers looking after the pilgrimage had been demanding the removal of stone quarries. They wanted the entire region declared a forest area through a notification to stop any kind of mining activities.

Mr. Shekhawat said that the State government was speaking disingenuously, with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot issuing a statement that he wanted an inquiry over the circumstances surrounding Baba Vijay Das's self-immolation.

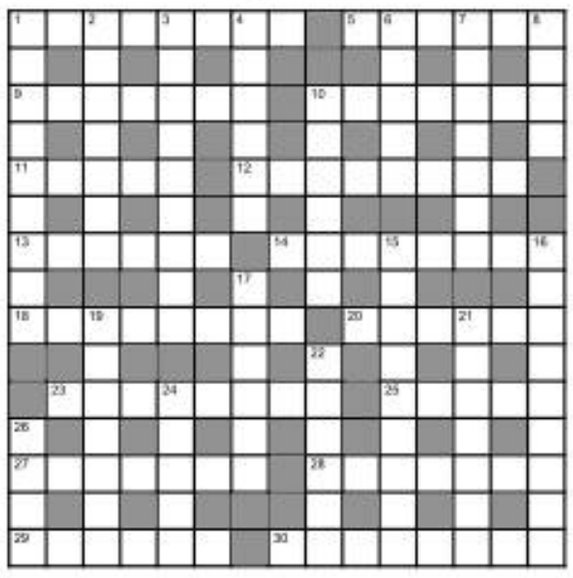
"The Rajasthan government is talking of setting up an inquiry, to be carried out by its own officials into a set of circumstances created by itself, and a self-immolation wherein it is complicit by acts of omission and commission. There can nothing stranger than this," Mr. Shekhawat said.

"All officials, politicians and others for whose benefit mining was allowed to continue in the teeth of such opposition should be exposed via such an inquiry, which will only be possible through a Central agency," the Minister said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13619

(set by Gussalufz)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*



Across

1 Weakness of visiting holy man: crowns from the east (4,4)
5 Jars as footwear worn by husband! (6)
9 Bun turns out lacking in taste in the middle, not overcooked (7)
10 Exercise somehow meant to be a way to address an issue, perhaps? (3,4)
11 Cell components – X and Y, say – working to replace lost energy (5)
12 I'll go and play specialised organ (3,5)
13 Lemurs find Rishikesh accommodating (6)
14 Centre for coaling drowned by changing climate: irony! (8)
18 Faith's violent origin involving the Spanish (8)
20 End of review of integration (6)
23 A bit dark to change sides – something of this sort leaves a bad taste in one's mouth (8)
25 Frequently suppressed daily buzzer, ultimately intruding in the morning (5)
27 Tantalisingly, cup's hanging, with one over to go – so near! (7)
28 Quiet, more aloof king is absorbed and more difficult to please (7)
29 Order of pomfret likely getting returned (6)
30 Everything sickly green is a harmful substance (8)

Down

1 With queen and king cornered, easier to get beaten at a higher frequency (9)
2 Story on upwardly mobile French luxury fashion house's growth (7)
3 Exaggerating and extravagant sister's no good! (9)
4 Duty of coach to rookie getting regularly benched (6)
6 Here, you can pay to sleep with attractive male (50% off under recession!) (5)
7 Tea and news? English lady's start is sound! (7)
8 Throw out recycled benches (4)
10 Signs of life plus evolution around the outskirts of space (6)
15 Awful anal ache after sustaining very big fall (9)
16 A tarmac bombed by a navy craft (9)
17 Check source of priority-zero bugs (6)
19 Poetic, semi-historical films from last year shown at the opening (7)
21 Government primarily levelling status of cows, perhaps (7)
22 Religious site or place set over hill's peak (6)
24 Suffocate dissenter, essentially under extremely cartoonish fine (5)
26 Trash truck at last, after nearly a month! (4)

SUDOKU

2					1	8		
		7	5		8	2		3
				7	3		1	
						6		
	6	5	4		7	1	3	
		9						
	4		7	9				
1		3	6		2	4		
		2	3					8

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13618

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	8	5	3	9	2	7	4	1
4	9	3	7	6	1	8	5	2
2	7	1	5	4	8	3	9	6
3	6	9	8	2	4	1	7	5
8	1	2	6	5	7	4	3	9
5	4	7	9	1	3	2	6	8
9	2	8	4	3	5	6	1	7
7	5	4	1	8	6	9	2	3
1	3	6	2	7	9	5	8	4

FAITH

Depletion of merits

There are many questions we have regarding our physical suffering. One question that often crops up is whether our illnesses could be due to some failure on our part to do prescribed rituals for our ancestors. The sin of neglecting such pitru karma gets added to our Sanchita Karma, that big bundle of karmas which we have accumulated over several births. Neglect of duty to ancestors will not have its results at once. So that should answer the question why we suffer despite doing the prescribed rites, while others who do not even believe in them are healthy. Their omissions will get added to their Sanchita Karma and they will pay for it in some future birth. That is why great men see their own suffering as the result of their past karmas, said Velukkudi Krishnan, in a discourse. They, therefore, welcome suffering, because as they suffer, their sins are wiped off. The more pleasures one enjoys, the more quickly one's punyas get exhausted. But it is not possible for the average man to think thus. His reaction, in fact, will be the exact opposite of that of great sages. Great scholars who are well versed in sacred texts are unaffected by things that give pleasure or things that lead to sorrow. There is a Subhashita which says:

Sokasthaana sahasraaNi bhayasthaana sataani ca
Divase divase moodhamaavishanti na panditam.

This wise saying makes the observation that pandits are untroubled by sorrow or joy. But a fool has thousands of causes for sorrow and hundreds of reasons to experience fear. If something happens, which should make them happy, pandits think that their punyas are getting depleted fast. If something unhappy happens, they think they are erasing some past karmas. Either way, they remain unaffected.

EU to reduce gas use by 15% over threats of supply cuts by Russia

Gazprom says cutbacks necessitated by delay in delivery of repaired turbine

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
LONDON

European Union (EU) member countries agreed to lower their natural gas use by 15% between August and March, in order to prepare for further cuts in gas supply by Moscow. On Monday, Russian gas company Gazprom said it would cut supplies via the Nord Stream I pipeline, to a fifth of capacity, as tensions continue to be high between Russia and the EU, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The plan, agreed to by EU Energy Ministers on Tuesday, relies on member states' voluntarily cutting down gas use by 15% but there are provisions in the agreement to impose a mandatory demand reduction, if needed. The plan hopes that gas saved will be stored for use over the winter.

Frequent interruptions: The landfall facilities of the Nord Stream I gas pipeline in Lubmin, Germany. • REUTERS

"Today, the European Union has taken a decisive step to face down the threat of a full gas disruption by Putin," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a statement.

Some 40% of the EU's gas came from Russia last year, making member countries vulnerable to fluctuations in supply. Nord Stream I was taken offline completely for days, following the servicing of a gas turbine, following which supplies have been restored to 40% of capacity in June. European leaders have accused Moscow of using energy as a weapon, following Europe and the U.S.'s sanctioning of Russia over its attack on Ukraine.

Gazprom on Tuesday said the cutbacks were necessitated by delays in receiving a repaired turbine for the pipeline. The turbine, which was repaired in Canada, has not been reinstalled yet, and another is expected to go offline because it needs repairs now, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"The situation has been critically complicated by the restrictions and sanctions imposed on our country," Mr. Peskov added.

(With AP inputs)

Executed prisoners deserved many death sentences: junta

Global outrage after four prominent activists were executed

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YANGON

Myanmar's junta lashed out on Tuesday against international condemnation of the country's first use of capital punishment in decades, saying the four executed prisoners – two of them prominent democracy fighters – "deserved many death sentences".

The executions announced on Monday sparked condemnation from around the globe, heightened fears that more executions will follow and prompted calls for sterner international measures against the already-isolated junta.

But the military authorities were defiant, with spokesman Zaw Min Tun insisting the men were "given the right to defend themselves according to court procedure".

Zaw Min Tun

"If we compare their sentence with other death penalty cases, they have committed crimes for which they should have been given death sentences many times," he said at a regular press briefing in the capital Naypyidaw.

"They harmed many innocent people. There were many big losses which could not be replaced."

The prisoners, who included a former lawmaker from ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party, had been allowed to meet family members through video conferencing, he said, without providing details.

After a chorus of international condemnation on Monday, including from the UN, the U.S. and European countries, there was fresh criticism of the junta on Tuesday.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc, which has led diplomatic efforts to end the crisis, said it was "extremely troubled and deeply saddened" by the executions.

In Bangkok, hundreds of people staged a noisy protest outside the Myanmar Embassy.

Indonesia, China pledge deeper ties

REUTERS
BEIJING

The leaders of China and Indonesia pledged to scale up trade and expand cooperation in areas such as agriculture and food security, following a rare visit to China by a foreign head of state.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo met Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing on Tuesday.

The commitment by China, Indonesia's biggest trading partner, to deepen trade relations and fully back Indonesia's Chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) next year is an economic and political win for Mr. Joko.

In the first half of 2022, Chinese imports from Indonesia, mostly commodities, surged 34.2%, the most after Russia.

Russia to leave ISS after 2024, focus on building own outpost

Roscosmos chief tells Putin Moscow will fulfil its obligations

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW

Russia will pull out of the International Space Station after 2024 and focus on building its own orbiting outpost, the country's new space chief said on Tuesday amid high tensions between Moscow and the West over the fighting in Ukraine.

Yuri Borisov, appointed this month to lead the state space agency, Roscosmos, said during a meeting with President Vladimir Putin that Russia will fulfill its obligations to its partners before it leaves.

"The decision to leave the station after 2024 has been made," Mr. Borisov said, adding: "I think that by that time we will start forming a Russian orbiting station."

Mr. Borisov's statement reaffirmed previous declarations by Russian space officials about Moscow's intention to leave the space station after 2024 when the current international arrangements for its operation end.

After a long run: NASA and other partners hope to keep the space station running until 2030. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

NASA and other international partners hope to keep the space station running until 2030, while the Russians have been reluctant to make commitments beyond 2024.

The space station is jointly run by the space agencies of Russia, the U.S., Europe, Japan and Canada. The first piece was put in orbit in 1998, and the outpost has been continuously inhabited for nearly 22 years. It is used to conduct scientific research in zero gravity and test out equipment for future space journeys.

It typically has a crew of seven, who spend months at a time aboard the station as it orbits about 400 km from Earth. Three Russians, three Americans and one Italian are now on board.

Russian strikes targeting Black Sea regions: Kyiv

'Odesa, Mykolaiv will soon be liberated'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV

Russia targeted Ukraine's Black Sea regions of Odesa and Mykolaiv with airstrikes on Tuesday, hitting private buildings and port infrastructure along the country's southern coast, the Ukrainian military said.

The Kremlin's forces used air-launched missiles in the attack, Ukraine's Operational Command South said in a Facebook post.

In the Odesa region, a number of private buildings in coastal villages were hit and caught fire, the report said. In the Mykolaiv region, port infrastructure was targeted despite the agreements Moscow and Kyiv signed last week that was intended to allow grain shipments to resume from Ukraine's Black Sea ports.

Hours after the strikes, a Moscow-installed official in southern Ukraine said the Odesa and Mykolaiv regions would soon be "liberated" by Russian forces, just like the already occupied Kherson region further east.

"The Kherson region and the city of Kherson have been liberated forever," the region's Russia-appointed official, Kirill Stremousov, was quoted as saying by Russian state news agency RIA Novosti.

Meanwhile, Russia's top diplomat repeated his insistence that Moscow was ready to hold talks with Ukraine on ending the war, though he once again claimed that Kyiv's Western allies oppose a deal.

"We never refused to have talks, because everybody knows that any hostilities end at the negotiating table," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Tuesday during a trip to Uganda.

He said negotiations have gone no further since a meeting between the two sides in Istanbul at the end of March.

Bangladesh seeks $4.5 billion IMF loan as reserves shrink

In Dhaka, D-8 nations seek to overcome economic hardships

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ASSOCIATED PRESS
DHAKA

Business leaders and officials from eight developing nations meeting in Bangladesh on Tuesday said more cooperation was needed among them to overcome dwindling foreign currency reserves, a growing energy crisis and supply chain disruptions. Separately, according to a report in the *Daily Star*, the country has asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a $4.5-billion loan to ease pressure from depreciating currency and shrinking foreign exchange reserves.

Representatives from Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Turkey and Bangladesh under the banner of D-8, or developing eight countries, on Tuesday discussed alternative trade financing such as cross-currency swap, barter and blockchain to address their foreign currency reserves vulnerabilities, according to organisers.

A.K. Abdul Momen

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen said the group, with a $5 trillion economy among its members, was working to implement a free trade agreement while also increasing the volume of trade.

Organisers said the participants were exploring ways to boost energy security with members such as Iran and Nigeria among the world's top oil producers.

"Due to ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and key global economic developments, every member country is experiencing foreign reserve and currency vulnerabilities, supply chain disruptions, inflation, energy and food security risks, and therefore should take precautionary measures to prepare for business beyond the usual," said Sheikh Fazle Fahim, President of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Bangladesh, a nation of 160 million people and the world's 41st largest economy, has suspended operations in diesel-run power plants to ease pressure on the cost of imports. The central bank has also taken measures to reduce the imports of luxury goods amid shortages of dollars in banks.

Trump in Washington for first time since 2020 loss

He will deliver a speech at an event

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump was back in Washington on Tuesday for the first time since leaving in disgrace 18 months ago. His speech to a right-wing think tank will shed light on whether the Republican is serious about trying to return – as President.

Since taking his last Air Force One flight from Washington to Florida on January 20 last year, Mr. Trump has remained the country's most polarising figure, continuing his unprecedented campaign to sow doubts about his 2020 election loss to Joe Biden.

For weeks, Washington has been riveted by hearings in Congress on the January 6, 2021 riot by a Mr. Trump mob and the defeated President's attempts to overturn the election.

Now, a short distance away across the same city, Mr. Trump will get his say.

With Mr. Biden's approval rating currently below 40% and Democrats forecasted to lose control of Congress in November midterm elections, Mr. Trump is apparently bullish that he could ride the Republican wave all the way to the White House in 2024.

An announcement is not expected during his speech to the America First Policy Institute, a think tank run by allies.

But the timing of the Washington appearance and the symbolism of the setting reflect Mr. Trump's growing confidence that he has survived the fallout from his supporters' assault on Congress, emerging with his standing as the biggest name in Republican politics intact.

Donald Trump

A spokesman, Taylor Budowich, said Mr. Trump, 76, would look forward.

"President Trump sees a nation in decline that is driven, in part, by rising crime and communities becoming less safe under Democrat policies," Mr. Budowich said in a statement. "His remarks will highlight the policy failures of Democrats"

That Trump is headlining a high-profile Republican event in the U.S. capital, let alone mulling an attempt to recapture the White House in two years, is remarkable.

Even Mr. Trump's former Vice-President Mike Pence, whose life was threatened during the Capitol assault and is now touted as a more moderate alternative in 2024, was notably mild about his old boss during a speech at a separate event in Washington on Tuesday.

"I don't know that the president and I differ on issues. But we may differ on focus," Mr. Pence said of Trump.

Sri Lanka's hospitals in dire straits

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Entire wards are dark and nearly empty in Sri Lanka's largest hospital, its few remaining patients leaving untreated and still in pain, and doctors prevented from even arriving for their shifts.

An unprecedented economic crisis has dealt a body blow to a free and universal healthcare system that just months earlier was the envy of the country's South Asian neighbours.

The National Hospital normally caters to people all over the island nation in need of specialist treatment, but it now runs on reduced staff and many of its 3,400 beds are lying unused.

Supplies of surgery equipment and life-saving drugs have been almost exhausted, while chronic petrol shortages have left both patients and doctors unable to travel for treatment.

Sri Lanka imports 85% of its medicines and medical equipment, along with raw materials to manufacture the remaining share of its needs.

But the country is now bankrupt and a lack of foreign currency has left it unable to source enough petrol to keep the economy moving – and enough pharmaceuticals to treat its sick. "Normal painkillers, antibiotics and paediatric medicines are in extremely short supply," pharmacy owner K. Mathiyalagan said.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DIVISION, CUTTACK
MAHANADIBIHAR : CUTTACK-753004
Govt. of Odisha - e-procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. RWSSCTC 07/2022-23

The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites lump sum bid through e-procurement in Double cover system according to norm of e-procurement.

1.	Nature of Work	: Rural Piped W/S Schemes
2.	No. of Tenders	: 09 Nos.
3.	Tender Paper Cost	: ₹ 10,000/-
4.	Value of Work	: ₹ 317.13 Lakh to 475.60 Lakhs.
5.	Class of Contractor	: "Special" , "A" Class
6.	Date and time of availability of bid document in portal.	: 11 hour of 03.08.2022 to 17.08.2022 up to 17 hours.
7.	Date & time of seeking tender clarification	: 16.08.2022 up to 17 hours
8.	Date & time of opening of tender	: 19.08.2022 at 11.30 Hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Cuttack.
9.	Time of completion	: 12 months

10. The bidders have to participate in online biding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Cuttack.
0-732: OIPR-25022/11/6014/2223

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-Tender Call Notice
No.TD/TM/GEN-235(Vol-VI)/22/1391, dtd 19.07.2022
Name of the Work: "Allotment of 03(Three) nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore/Iron Ore Pellet plots at IOHP", License Fees: Rs.2,85,43,020/-, Wharfage Fees: Rs.16,93,309/-. Last date & time of submission of bid: 08.08.2022 up to 15:00 hrs. Date and time of Opening (technical bid): 08.08.2022 up to 15:00 hrs. Refer our website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app & http://paradipport.gov.in
Traffic Manager
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/177/22-23, dtd.26.07.2022

KSITIL
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
FOSTeRA
Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited (KSITIL) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Eligible IT/ITES/BPO Companies who are willing to avail the incentives under FOSTeRA Scheme.
EOI may be submitted to the office of the Managing Director on or before 16th August 2022.
For details, please visit our website https://ksitil.kerala.gov.in
Date: 25/07/2022
Trivandrum Managing Director
Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala-695004

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
TIRUPATI DIST., A.P.
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Office Of The Chief Engineer ADV No.24/03/CE/TTD/2022-23 & NIT No.36/SE-I/TTD/2022-23
Name of Work: Procurement of 1 gram 22ct Gold Mangalasutrams of 10,087 Nos for Kalyanamasta programme 2022. Open Tender Type and Time for Completion 1 month.
Schedule download start date 25-07-2022 (5.00 PM); Download end date 09-08-2022 (up to 1.00 PM) and last Date for bid submission : 09-08-2022 (up to 3.00PM).
NOTE: For full details log on to the website https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/ or http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in/
Rec.No.PR4/13944/Adv/No.152/PRO/2022, Dated:25-07-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022
Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-1017/01/2013/ 18817 Dated : 25.07.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Road, Drain and RCC Culvert at Saw Mill Zone in Industrial Estate, Choudwar, Cuttack, Odisha.
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.831.19 lakh (Approx.)
3. Period of Completion : 06 (Six) Calendar Months.
4. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID /Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-33/2022-23	03.08.2022 at 17.00 Hrs.	19.08.2022 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.
Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-1233 OIPR-14003/11/6085/2223

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Office of the Superintending Engineer (MM-I)
MM building, Old Power House Premises, Near Ram Mandir, Banipark, Jaipur
Tele/No. 0141-2208088 E-mail Id:- jenmm1@jvvnl.org
NOTICE INVITING BID
A) Tender under e-procurement: Online tender is invited for purchase of 2-Core PVC Armoured Cable of size 2Cx4 sq mm (TN-4891) (UBN-VVN2223GLOB00203). All the details regarding tenders are available at web site http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.
JPR NO. 2725 (2022) SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-I)
Raj.samvad/C/22/5485 For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

भारत सरकार • अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लुर (जिला), आं.प्र./ SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE तिथि/ Date. 25.07.2022
भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से "एसडीएससी शार स्थित यवन परिक्षेदक यूपीएस कक्ष में यूपीएस मुख्य वितरण पैनल की आपूर्ति, अधिष्ठापन, परीक्षणएवंअभिचालन।" (पीटी-ई-22-014, अनुमानित लागत ₹6.56 लाख); हेतु मद–दर ई–निविदाए आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा दस्तावेज 05.08.2022 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in या www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO देखें।
"On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for "SITC of UPS main distribution panel at wind profiler UPS room at SDSC SHAR " (PT-E-22-014, Est. cost: ₹6.56 Lakhs). Tender documents can be downloaded upto 05.08.2022, 14:30hrs. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.
हस्ताक्षरित/- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

महा मेट्रो PUNE METRO
MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT
101, The Orion, Opposite Don Bosco Youth Centre, Koregaon Park, Pune - 411001. Telephone: 020-26051072
E-mail: tenders.pmrp@mahametro.org | www.punemetrorail.org
Tender Notice No. P1Misc-28/2022 Dated: 26.07.2022
Name of the Work: Design of Graphics, Fabrication, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Signage of 4 stations viz. Dapodi, Bopodi, Khadki & Range Hill of Reach 01 and 4 stations viz. Deccan Gymkhana, Sambhaji Park, PMC and Civil Court Elevated of Reach 02 of Pune Metro Rail Project.
Completion Period: 4 Months (including Monsoon Period).
Cost of Documents: ₹ 20,000/- + GST 18%, Total INR 23,600/-(Rupees Twenty Three Thousand Six Hundred only) non-refundable (inclusive applicable taxes) payable through e-payment by UPI/NEFT/RTGS.
Interested bidders may visit Pune Metro Rail website www.punemetrorail.org or download the bidding documents and obtain further details regarding the tender from our e-tender portal https://mahametrorail.etenders.in from 17:00 Hrs. on 26/07/2022.
Executive Director (Procurement & Contracts), MAHA-METRO
Maha Metro, Greenest Metro

MARKET WATCH

	26-07-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	55,268	-0.89
US Dollar	79.78	–
Gold	51,192	0.09
Brent oil	104.51	-0.43

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	749.10	-0.85
Apollo Hosp	4110.20	-78.70
Asian Paints	3108.50	3.55
Axis Bank	706.45	-20.90
Bajaj Auto	3925.60	-95.55
Bajaj Finserv	13313.00	693.45
Bajaj Finance	6264.45	37.45
Bharti Airtel	684.10	5.70
BPCL	318.45	1.30
Britannia Ind	3807.15	-78.75
Cipla	955.70	-4.10
Coal India	202.30	1.40
Divis Lab	3687.00	-87.10
Dr Reddys Lab	4212.00	-118.55
Eicher Motors	3023.30	-61.40
Grasim Ind	1514.85	16.35
HCL Tech	913.50	-17.15
HDFC	2292.50	-16.15
HDFC Bank	1393.75	-2.85
HDFC Life	522.55	-4.20
Hero MotoCorp	2800.75	-38.10
Hindalco	381.90	-5.15
Hind Unilever	2547.10	-76.50
ICICI Bank	796.30	-4.60
Indusind Bank	961.60	-0.45
Infosys	1451.15	-52.45
ITC	302.45	1.35
JSW Steel	597.75	12.25
Kotak Bank	1761.60	-33.95
L&T	1751.25	-31.20
M&M	1136.00	0.15
Maruti Suzuki	8525.85	-95.75
Nestle India Ltd.	18509.50	-248.05
NTPC	150.00	-0.10
ONGC	128.20	-1.60
PowerGrid Corp	209.10	1.20
Reliance Ind	2421.50	1.10
SBI Life	1138.20	-6.75
State Bank	514.20	-1.60
Shree Cement	20652.35	-26.70
Sun Pharma	867.65	-0.70
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	790.85	-17.10
Tata Motors	441.15	-8.40
Tata Steel	949.50	-11.20
TCS	3115.90	-50.85
Tech Mahindra	999.35	-17.90
Titan	2293.20	-35.65
UltraTech Cement	6399.65	16.75
UPL	726.35	-7.60
Wipro	405.20	-9.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 26

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.58	79.90
Euro	80.74	81.07
British Pound	95.46	95.85
Japanese Yen (100)	58.25	58.49
Chinese Yuan	11.77	11.82
Swiss Franc	82.46	82.83
Singapore Dollar	57.31	57.55
Canadian Dollar	61.81	62.06
Malaysian Ringgit	17.86	17.93
Australian Dollar	55.18	55.41

Source: Indian Bank

'LIC stock performance must be gauged over medium term'

Several factors affect trading price of an entity, Finance Ministry tells Parliament

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The LIC Board and management 'have been continuously engaged' in improving its performance parameters and the performance of the recently-listed insurance behemoth's shares must be analysed over a longer period, the Finance Ministry told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

"The market capitalisation of a listed entity changes on a continuous basis, based on a small volume of shares traded in the market," Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad told the Parliament in a written reply to a query from MP Raghav Chadha. Mr. Chadha had sought to know the reasons why shares of LIC 'wiped out over ₹1.5 lakh crore of investors' capital, becoming one of the largest wealth guzzlers of recent times'. Mr. Chadha also asked why LIC shares were 'continuously crashing' in the market and the steps taken by government to ensure that they 'do not touch new lows every day'.

Question of impact: Market capitalisation changes daily based on a small volume of traded shares, says Karad. •REUTERS

"The stock market performance of a... stock needs to be analysed on a medium to long-term basis for a newly listed entity. There are several factors that affect the trading price of an entity such as geopolitical factors, global and national macroeconomic environment and perceptions of market participants on the prospects of a particular sector and/or the entity," the Minister said.

The government had sold a 3.5% stake in LIC through an IPO, which fetched about ₹21,000 crore at an issue price of ₹949 a share. Since its listing on May 17, the LIC stock has been trending down and closed at ₹675.35 on the BSE on Tuesday.

IMF cuts outlook for global growth, flags recession risk

Fund lowers India growth projection for fiscal 2022 to 7.4%

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Surging inflation and sharp slowdowns in the United States and China prompted the IMF to cut its outlook for the global economy this year and next, while warning Tuesday that the situation could get much worse.

"The outlook has darkened significantly since April," said IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas. "The world may soon be teetering on the edge of a global recession, only two years after the last one," Mr. Gourinchas warned.

In its latest outlook, the International Monetary Fund cut the 2022 global GDP estimate to 3.2%, 40 basis points lower than April's forecast, and about half the rate seen last year.

Last year's "tentative recovery" from the pandemic "has been followed by increasingly gloomy developments in 2022 as risks began to materialise," the IMF said. "Several shocks have hit a world economy already weakened by the pandemic," including the war in Ukraine which has driven up global prices for food and energy, prompting central banks to raise interest rates sharply.

'India to slow in 2023'

The fund also cut India's growth outlook by 0.8 percentage point to 7.4% for fiscal year 2022, reflecting "mainly less favourable external conditions and more rapid policy tightening."

India's 7.4% GDP growth is the second-highest after Saudi Arabia's 7.6%. India, whose GDP was projected at 8.7% in 2021, will see growth slow down to 6.1% in fiscal year 2023, the fund said.

(With PTI inputs)

Home Ministry clears Wilson as Air India CEO

He can formally take charge of airline

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs has granted security clearance to Air India's (AI) CEO and MD Campbell Wilson.

The decision will pave the way for Mr. Wilson to formally take charge at Air India. Mr. Wilson, a New Zelander, joined the airline on June 20.

Tata Sons announced Mr. Wilson's appointment to the top position on May 12.

He was the CEO of Scoot, Singapore Airline's low-cost subsidiary.

Campbell Wilson

Mr. Wilson had also spent time at Singapore Airlines where he was the senior vice-president of Sales & Marketing and oversaw pricing, distribution, e-commerce, merchandising, brand and marketing, global sales and the airline's overseas offices.

Mr. Wilson was chosen for the role after Tata Sons' first choice, former Turkish Airlines chairman Ilker Ayci, turned down the offer because of questions over his political linkages. Tata Sons took over AI from the government in January 2022.

L&T Q1 net profit rises 45% to ₹1,702 cr. on higher revenue

Construction major sees 'strong execution' in infrastructure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Larsen & Toubro Ltd.'s consolidated first-quarter net profit rose 45% to ₹1,702 crore due on higher revenue.

Revenue grew 22% to ₹35,853 crore 'with strong execution witnessed in the infrastructure segment and riding on the sustaining growth momentum in the IT&TS portfolio.'

"The company has performed very strongly during the quarter," R. Shankar Raman, whole-time director and CFO, said during a post-earnings conference call.

"It performed well on all parameters uniformly."

R. Shankar Raman

International revenue at ₹13,235 crore constituted 37% of the total revenue. The company secured orders worth ₹41,805 crore at the group level, registering a growth of 57%.

Orders were received across diverse segments such as public spaces, metro, water management and waste water, minerals and metal, factories, data centres, defence, power transmission and distribution and hydrocarbon Offshore sectors.

International orders at ₹17,842 crore comprised 43% of the total order inflow.

The consolidated order book of the group stood at 'a record' ₹3,63,448 crore as on June 30, with international orders having 28% share, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Effective April 1, the operating segments have been reorganised in line with the business strategy to be adopted by the Company under its five-year plan (Lakshya 2026).

OneWeb in merger deal with France's Eutelsat

Bharti Group to be largest shareholder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

French satellite operator Eutelsat and key shareholders of Bharti-backed OneWeb have agreed to an all-share merger, the two companies said on Tuesday.

Post closing of the deal, the Bharti Group will be the single largest shareholder of Eutelsat. The transaction values OneWeb at $3.4 billion (more than ₹27,000 crore), as per a joint statement.

Eutelsat, which holds 23% in OneWeb, will combine its fleet of 36 Geostationary Orbit (GEO) satellites with OneWeb's constellation of 648 Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites, of which 428 are currently in orbit.

OneWeb had received the letter of intent for the GMPCS (Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite) licence from India's Telecom Department.

Earlier this year, OneWeb also inked a pact with the Indian Space Research Organisation's commercial arm for launching satellites.

"Sunil Bharti Mittal shall be the co-chair of the combined listed entity," the two companies said.

IN BRIEF

Competition Commission clears Axis Bank-Citi deal

NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission has approved Axis Bank's proposed acquisition of Citi's consumer business in India, one of the largest deals in the country's financial services space. The deal, worth ₹12,325 crore, was announced on March 30. PTI

Tata Motors, Indian Bank partner for car loans

NEW DELHI

Tata Motors on Tuesday said it had tied up with Indian Bank to facilitate easy financing for its customers to avail car loans from more than 5,700 branches of Indian Bank across the country. "Such partnerships will make the car purchasing process seamless for customers and positively impact their overall buying experience of Tata cars," said Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Senior GM – Network Management & EV Sales Ramesh Dorairajan. PTI

Borrowing cost of States eases marginally to 7.9%

MUMBAI

After touching almost 8% last week, the States breathed a little easy on Tuesday as the cost of their borrowings eased marginally to 7.90%. The weighted average cost of states' borrowings inched down by 6 basis points to 7.90% at the latest auctions of state development loans as State debt is known, when nine States together raised ₹18,700 crore from markets on Tuesday, according to an analysis by Icra. PTI

'Franklin Templeton will invest to rebuild brand'

MUMBAI

Global asset manager Franklin Templeton on Tuesday said it was not exiting India and would be investing in rebuilding the brand in the country after facing SEBI action with respect to certain debt schemes. In November 2020, SEBI had issued a show-cause notice to the firm following its April 2020 decision to wind up six debt schemes having ₹25,000 crore of AUM from 3 Lakh investors, citing liquidity challenges due to COVID. PTI

Rane Brake Q1 net triples on higher volume

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Rane Brake Lining Ltd. (RBL) reported a more than threefold rise in first-quarter standalone net profit to ₹5.8 crore on higher volumes and improved operational performance.

Revenue from operations grew 48% to ₹139 crore, the firm said in a filing. Sales to original equipment clients grew 36%, and to aftermarket customers by 93%.

However, the rise in commodity prices limited improvement in profitability. "RBL benefited from the favourable demand environment across market segments" said chairman L. Ganesh. "Demand environment in India looks encouraging for the upcoming quarter. We remain cautiously optimistic."

ECGC raises risk cover for small exporters

Firm signs up State Bank of India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

ECGC Ltd. has introduced a scheme to provide enhanced export credit risk insurance cover to the extent of 90% to support small exporters. Earlier, the cover available was about 70%.

In this regard, it has signed up State Bank of India (SBI) under the Export Credit Insurance for Banks Whole Turnover Packaging Credit and Post Shipment (ECIB – WTPC & PS). SBI has agreed to provide export credit at repo rate plus 1.3%.

Other banks are also expected to sign up for this scheme, according to ECGC top officials, who added that this scheme would benefit a number of small-scale exporters availing of export credit with banks that hold the ECGC WT-ECIB covers.

This will also enable small exporters to explore new markets and new buyers, and diversify their existing product portfolio to help remain competitive.

"We expect the cover to play a game-changing role," ECGC chairman M. Senthilnathan told reporters. "We expect this to bring up the percentage of accounts with up to ₹20 crore, thereby lending further stability to ECGC portfolio," he added.

Textiles sector to work on raising cotton output

Production estimated at 315 lakh bales

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

The textile industry will soon submit to the government a proposal to improve cotton quality and productivity.

Union Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal and and Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar held a meeting with cotton sector stakeholders on July 24.

Ravi Sam, chairman of Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA), who participated in the meeting, said a multi-pronged approach is required for farmers to sow quality seeds and adopt best practices, to improve soil health and reduce contamination in cotton.

The industry will submit a proposal to the government, start engaging with the farmers, and also extend support to them to increase productivity and improve quality. "The aim is to start working with farmers for the winter sowing," he said.

A press release from SIMA, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry and The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council said annual cotton production in the country is estimated to drop to the 'lowest' level of 315 lakh bales this season.

Bajaj Auto Q1 net dips on chip shortage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Bajaj Auto on Tuesday reported a marginal decline in consolidated net profit to ₹1,163 crore for June quarter 2022-23 as chip shortages impacted sales.

The firm had posted a net profit of ₹1,170 crore in the year-earlier period.

Total revenue from operations rose to ₹8,005 crore in the quarter from ₹7,386 crore, Bajaj Auto said in a regulatory filing.

Total volume declined 7% to 9,33,646 units from 10,06,014 units.

Sales were significantly constrained by the inadequate availability of semiconductors, although the situation improved in the latter part as new supply sources were developed, Bajaj Auto stated.

Record-setting Men in Blue have their sights on a clean sweep

They may not tinker with a settled batting line-up; Windies need to fire as a unit

Propping up the middle: Shreyas and Samson have hit the straps with fifties in the last game. • AFP

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT OF SPAIN

India is unlikely to take its foot off the pedal as it aims to top up a World record-winning feat with another clean sweep against the West Indies on Wednesday.

India created a World record on Sunday by sealing a 12th consecutive series win in the One-Day International format against the West Indies – the most against any single team.

In this backdrop, head coach Rahul Dravid may be tempted to try out some of his reserve players but will have to maintain a fine balance between keeping the momentum and testing his bench strength.

In the batting department, it is unlikely that Ruturaj Gaikwad will be preferred over Shubman Gill, who has innings of 64 and 43 to his credit. Gaikwad got a full South Africa series where he looked distinctly uncomfortable against quality pace, but his IPL credentials have kept him in the mix.

Shreyas Iyer and Sanju Samson have also hit the straps with fifties in the last game and Suryakumar Yadav is not expected to cool his heels despite his twin failures.

Ishan Kishan is seen as a good timer of the ball who can use the PowerPlay overs well by hitting over the in-field. But, he is not a power-hitter who can force the pace after the 35th over and hence Samson is a better option.

Ravindra Jadeja as the designated vice-captain was the first choice all-rounder in this series before he was ruled out of the first two games due to a knee niggle.

- Ishan Kishan is seen as a good timer of the ball who can use the PowerPlay overs well by hitting over the in-field

It is still not certain whether Jadeja will be available for the final game. Axar Patel, after his second game match-winning knock of 64, could feel hard done by if he has to make way. Or, if Dhawan wants two play two left-arm spinners, Yuzvendra Chahal could be asked to rest.

The West Indies, meanwhile, has failed to fire as a unit, despite boasting several capable players. The individual brilliance of Shai Hope, Nicholas Pooran, Rovman Powell and Romario Shepherd have been on display.

But, the team hasn't shown the character to win important moments that can impact the outcome of the match. West Indies could do well to use the experience of Jason Holder in the final game of the series.

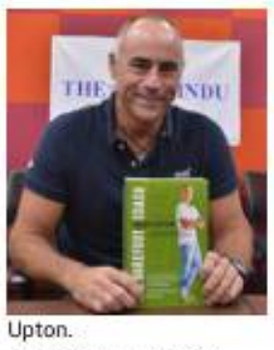
The teams (from):

West Indies: Nicholas Pooran (Capt.), Shai Hope (Vice-capt.), Shamarh Brooks, Keacy Carty, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Kyle Mayers, Keemo Paul, Rovman Powell, Jayden Seales and Hayden Walsh.

India: Shikhar Dhawan (Capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Prasidh Krishna, Mohd Siraj and Arshdeep Singh.

Match starts at 7 p.m. IST.

India role for Upton again



Upton. • FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

Paddy Upton is set to return to the Indian men's cricket team's dressing room as its mental conditioning expert.

Upton, who was head coach Gary Kirsten's trusted lieutenant during India's triumphant World Cup campaign in 2011, is likely to join India's squad for the five-match T20I series in the West Indies, starting on Friday.

A BCCI official confirmed to *The Hindu* that Upton "will be appointed as the mental conditioning coach till the T20 World Cup in Australia".

India to host 2025 women's ODI World Cup

Laxman named player representative

ICC MEETING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India will host the women's 50-over World Cup in 2025 as the BCCI successfully bid for the mega event during the ICC Annual Conference that concluded in Birmingham on Tuesday. India had previously hosted the event in 1978, 1997 and 2013.

Three other ICC women's events were also awarded on the day. Bangladesh will host the 2024 T20 World Cup, England the 2026 edition, and Sri Lanka the inaugural T20 Champions Trophy in 2027.

"We were keen on hosting the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 and we are glad we have won the hosting rights for this marquee clash on the women's calendar," said BCCI president Sourav Ganguly.

The ICC Board also approved both the men's and women's Future Tours Programme (FTP) from 2023 to 2027 and they will be published in the coming days. It is learnt that India will play 38 Tests during the said period.

WTC finals at Lord's

The Final of the World Test Championships in 2023 and 2025 will be played at Lord's.

V.V.S Laxman has been appointed to the ICC Men's Cricket Committee as current player representative alongside former New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori.

Roger Harper has been selected as the second past player representative on the committee, joining Mahela Jayawardene.

The Board approved the process to elect the next Chair of the ICC which will take place in November 2022. The term of the elected Chair will run for a two-year period from December 1, 2022.

Cambodia, Cote D'Ivoire and Uzbekistan were made associate members at the meeting.

Pooja and Meghana test Covid positive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

Two women cricketers – batter S. Meghana and all-rounder Pooja Vastrakar – have tested positive for COVID-19 and stayed back in the country ahead of the side's opener against Australia in the Commonwealth Games here on Friday.

The India squad had left on Sunday morning for Birmingham without these two.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly had earlier confirmed that one member of the touring party tested positive.

The squad had trained at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) ahead of the Games.

A BCCI source added: "As per protocol, both players can only join the team once they test negative."

Considering the situation, the two players are unlikely to feature in the opener against Australia.

Sri Lanka runs up a healthy lead

On a roll: Ramesh Mendis exults after one of his five strikes. • AFP

PAKISTAN IN SL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GALLE

Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne battled through back pain to extend Sri Lanka's second-innings lead to 323 after key strikes by Pakistan's bowlers in the second Test on Tuesday.

The hosts reached 176 for five when bad light stopped play early on day three, with stumps called after more than half an hour's wait for conditions to improve. The left-handed Karunaratne, on 27, and Dhananjaya de Silva, on 30, were batting in an unbeaten stand of 59.

Spinner Ramesh Mendis had claimed a five-wicket haul to help bowl out Pakistan for 231, for a lead of 147 going into the second innings.

Sri Lanka was in trouble at 117 for five when Karunaratne, who stayed off the field during Pakistan's innings, and de Silva got down to the grind. de Silva took on the opposition and hit six boundaries with Karunaratne happy to play anchor. The skipper had to call for help from the physio during his knock.

Pakistan earlier rattled the Sri Lankans with key wickets including Angelo Mathews in his 100th Test after the former captain, who made 35, attempted to rebuild the innings with Dinesh Chandimal.

The in-form Chandimal looked good on 21 but fell caught behind off Naseem Shah soon after tea.

Naseem had struck first with the wicket of Niroshan Dickwella, who fell for 15 after opening in place of the ailing Karunaratne.

SCOREBOARD

Sri Lanka – 1st innings: 378.

Pakistan – 1st innings: Abdullah Shafique b A. Fernando 0, Imam-ul-Haq b de Silva 32, Babar Azam b Jayasuriya 16, Mohammad Rizwan lbw b R. Mendis 24, Fawad Alam lbw b R. Mendis 24, Agha Salman c de Silva b Jayasuriya 62, Mohammad Nawaz c Dickwella b R. Mendis 12, Yasir Shah lbw b R. Mendis 26, Hasan Ali b Jayasuriya 21, Nauman Ali c Dickwella b R. Mendis 1, Naseem Shah (not out) 4; Extras (b-8, lb-1): 9; Total (in 88.1 overs): 231.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-35, 3-65, 4-88, 5-119, 6-145, 7-191, 8-223, 9-226.

Sri Lanka bowling: A. Fernando 20-2-62-1, Jayasuriya 37-10-80-3, R. Mendis 21.1-6-47-5, de Silva 4-0-15-1, Wellalage 6-1-18-0.

Sri Lanka – 2nd innings: Niroshan Dickwella c Rizwan b Naseem 15, Oshada Fernando lbw b Yasir 19, Kusal Mendis lbw b Nawaz 15, Angelo Mathews c Azam b Salman 35, Dinesh Chandimal c Rizwan b Naseem 21, Dimuth Karunaratne (batting) 27, Dhananjaya de Silva (batting) 30; Extras (b-9, lb-2, nb-2, w-1): 14; Total (for five wkts. in 50 overs): 176.

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-47, 3-59, 4-100, 5-117.

Pakistan bowling: Hasan 5-0-24-0, Naseem 9-1-29-2, Yasir 12-2-41-1, Nawaz 11-2-32-1, Nauman 5-0-15-0, Salman 7-1-18-1, Azam 1-0-6-0.

Chess Olympiad: We should go in with a sense of danger, but not be pessimistic

Even if we have a 2.5-1.5 win, and have a lot of them, then we're steadily scoring points and having a smooth ride

VISWANATHAN ANAND

It's Chess Olympiad time and I can feel the buzz, not just in my home State but everywhere I've travelled during the past month.

Organising an event of this magnitude, that too at such a short notice, is simply incredible. All credit to the steps taken by the Tamil Nadu government and the All India Chess Federation.

It is obvious for the Indian fans to be excited about the prospects of our teams. In my view, it's highly desirable to minimise errors.

I mean, every match here or there that goes awry will have a stress on you. It's also part of the normal tournament calendar format. But, hopefully, we'll have a smooth ride in the sense that even if we have a 2.5-1.5 win, and we have a lot of them, then we're steadily scoring points.

I'm happy that with all the fresh faces we have, may be, they will be able to win games so that even the odd defeat does not hurt the team. They all seem to push and take a fair amount of risk. So it'll be choppy. If they're winning games, that's all that counts. I think in most matches, we should go in with a sense of danger, but not be pessimistic, either.

Mentor's role

I, as a mentor of the teams, will be in touch with them. Hopefully, they will feel free to reach out to me, if they have work here or there. I have noticed, though, that most people – and this is true for me as well – that when we are there, we have our own preparation, our own notes. And mostly we're trying to get familiar with this stuff.

So, I don't expect they'll have the energy or the time to keep asking people for help. If I help them, they will have to absorb that and so on.

You can't control what others say. I would advise players to just ignore this. But this is a social media generation. So I don't even know how to tell them not to take all these things. Let me put it this way. I would not pay attention to people cheering for medals and all because you know, that's what fans do, right? But a player should not be thinking about that, because it's way too premature for that. I think if you can ignore that, lower your expectations and not go into this Olympiad thinking it's great, then actually playing in your home country is a

CASAGRAND
building aspirations

huge advantage. If you start thinking that you're much stronger than you are, and that you have to perform much higher than it's reasonable to expect, then you can end up putting a lot of

pressure on yourself. So even when I'm there, I'll hopefully remind them. I'll have to find a way to put it, but it's quite annoying that people just say only medal... only gold. I would find it very distracting.

Now that it is confirmed that India will field three teams in both sections, it adds to the home interest. In terms of pure strength, the youngsters (in Team B of Open section) are quite strong. I would only say that Team A has more experienced people. In Team A, we know which are the boards that are not going to cause any drama and then we have the dangerous guys.

Drama not a bad thing

Whereas in Team B there might be too much drama, but that's not a bad thing. I can't say what experience counts for in an Olympiad – may be knowing what crunch moments are or what to do when your team is doing badly. These experiences shape you, but honestly, you figure this out pretty fast. So I think Team B will have more drama every day. Among the women, our Team A is stronger with Koneru Humpy, Dronavalli Harika, R. Vaishali, Tania Sachdeva and Bhakti Kulkarni.

The second team has a lot of experience and I noticed during the camp (in Chennai) that they all were training very hard. Everyone is very motivated.

Amid all the rising expectations, I would counsel the players that mileage can vary. It would bother me a lot if people around are kind of euphoric, more than just talking about medals and so on, which is hopelessly unrealistic at this stage. It's hopelessly unrealistic even during the tournament. It's only during the last two or three rounds when we even permit ourselves the luxury.

'Our focus is on performance, not medal'

Harikrishna says in order to get good results, all four players have to do very well

RAKESH RAO
MAMALLAPURAM

With the Chess Olympiad just a couple of days away, the well-prepared members of the Indian teams are raring to go. After the extended preparatory camp in Chennai, it is time for some of those players to unwind a bit, before deep-diving into some serious action.

India-A, seeded two for the first time in the biennial competition, is looking to improve upon the country's only bronze-medal performance of 2014. Even without Viswanathan Anand, the team looks rich in experience with P. Harikrishna, K. Sasikiran and Vidit Gujrathi around.

Young Arjun Erigaisi brings in the dash of excitement while S.L. Narayanan appears as focussed as ever.

"Not having Anand makes a big difference to the team," said Harikrishna on Tuesday and continued, "on the other hand, we have so many young players playing exceptional chess. We have a nice mixture of experienced players and youth in the team. Definitely, we will try to improve from the previous Olympiad."

Ahead of his 10th Olympiad, Harikrishna said, "It's a responsibility that I enjoy. It's a great honour to play for the Indian team and I see every Olympiad as my first. So I go in with the same excitement as when I played my first Olympiad (as a 14-year-old in 2000).

"I was pretty excited to play my first Olympiad. I played freely. As you get

P. Harikrishna. • RAKESH RAO

stronger, you need to play better and contribute as much as possible to the team. Also, I have to give back from the experience I gained over the years to the younger team members so that they can play freely and not feel any kind of pressure. As I play more, the responsibilities increase."

Reflecting on the teams in the medal-hunt, Harikrishna said, "I think, there are at least 15 teams which are really strong. There will be a couple of teams which are extremely solid. Therefore, it's important that in order to perform well, all four players have to do very well. And we also need a little bit of luck. We should not be too focussed on the medal."

Harikrishna made light of USA being the overwhelming rating favourite in the Open section. He pointed out, "Russia was seeded No. 1 for many years but it last won the gold (in the Open section) in 2002! It's a tough, tough event. Of course, the USA is strong and maybe a huge favourite. But it doesn't guarantee anything."

Injured Neeraj pulls out of CWG

Groin strain lays the champion javelin star low

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Defending champion Neeraj Chopra on Tuesday pulled out of the Commonwealth Games, beginning on Thursday, due to a groin strain he developed in the recent World Championships.

IOA secretary-general Rajiv Mehta said Neeraj underwent an MRI scan on Monday in the USA and has been advised rest for one month. "Team India javelin thrower Mr. Neeraj Chopra had called me earlier today from the US to convey his inability to take part in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games owing to fitness concern," Mehta said.

It hurts! Neeraj was troubled by a groin strain during the final at the Worlds. • AFP

"Following his participation in the 2022 World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Mr. Chopra had had an MRI scan done on Monday and, based on it, he has been advised a month's rest by his medical team," Mehta added.

Lovlina's coach gets accreditation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist boxer Lovlina Borgohain's coach Sandhya Gurung got her Commonwealth Games accreditation in Birmingham on Tuesday.

"Coach Sandhya Gurung has received her accreditation and room at the Games Village in Birmingham," said a Boxing Federation of India (BFI) statement.

Lovlina, through a tweet on Monday, had complained of 'mental harassment' as her coach could not enter the Games Village. She said the absence of her coach hampered her training ahead of the Games.

LIVE TELECAST

Sri Lanka vs Pakistan: 2nd Test, day 4, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 10 a.m.
West Indies vs India: 3rd ODI, FanCode & DD Sports, 7 p.m.
Scotland vs New Zealand: 1st T20I, FanCode, 7 p.m.
TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7.15 p.m.
England vs South Africa: 1st T20I, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 11 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Bayern signs French teen Tel from Rennes

MUNICH

Bayern Munich, on Tuesday, signed French teenager Mathys Tel from Rennes for a reported fee of up to €30 million. The 17-year-old Tel, who plays as a forward, had a contract with Rennes through 2024. Bayern did not specify the length of the contract or disclose the transfer fee. AP

McKeon youngest to score T20I ton

McKeon
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ANI
HELSINKI

French batter Gustav McKeon became the youngest men's cricketer to smash a T20I hundred on Monday.

He accomplished this feat against Switzerland in Vantaa during their T20 World Cup 2024 Europe Sub-Regional Qualifier tournament match.

Betters Zazai's record

At the age of 18 years and 280 days, McKeon blasted 109 (61b, 5x4, 9x6) to better the record of Afghanistan batter Hazratullah Zazai, who had smashed 162 not out off 62 balls against Ireland in 2019 when aged 20 years and 337 days.

Despite his century, France lost the match to Switzerland which chased down the target of 158, with captain Faheem Nazir scoring 67 off 46 balls.

Ashwini raring to go in CWG

Shuttler confident of partnering Sumeeth to India's first mixed doubles gold

BADMINTON

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Ashwini Ponnappa, the most experienced member of the Commonwealth Games-bound Indian badminton squad, says she is all geared up for the big challenge and determined to win a medal.

"The preparations have been good as we got some really quality sessions and we both (she and mixed doubles partner Sumeeth Reddy) are looking forward to a memorable outing in Birmingham," Ashwini told *The Hindu*.

Gelling well

"For me, these Games are different as I am in the team as a mixed doubles player. We are going to give our best for sure," she said. "Since India has never won a mixed doubles medal at the CWG, it will be awesome if we can pull off one. I enjoy playing with Sumeeth. Though we don't play the conventional style, we have our own, unique way of gelling on the court," Ashwini said.

"We believe we can be very effective with our own style and approach," she said. "Sumeeth is fast, agile and has good half-smashes.

Gold in their sights: Sumeeth and Ashwini are fully prepared for Birmingham. • V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

For me, one of his strong points is his never-give-up attitude which is very important at any level.

"We are disciplined and are mentally tough. These things should help us go a long way," she said.

On the areas to improve, Ashwini said she was working on a strong serve, return and a third shot.

Ashwini says she has had some pretty consistent partnerships, one of the highpoints being the World championship women's doubles bronze partnering G. Jwala.

"Only last year I experimented in mixed doubles with different partners. But, my strong points are I can hold my own while defending. I've gotten better at the net and of course my smashes are helpful in mixed doubles, too," Ashwini explained.

"Combinations from Singapore, Malaysia and England can pose a serious challenge," she said.

Ready for anything

Sumeeth, who overcame serious health issues recently, felt they were ready to tackle whatever the Games throw at them.

"Yes, there is an ardent desire to win at this level. I believe we are going in the right direction," he said.

"Ashwini has a lot of strong points and we can play different styles even while focusing on how to implement the gameplan and try to get better each day," Sumeeth said.

"I always challenge myself to give my best. I am always open to listening to what my partners say for better results. I believe attitude and grit are the key for big wins," he concluded.

KSCA CRICKET

Arvind hits century in Hammonds' victory

Arvind scored 110 as Hammonds CC defeated Cavaliers CC by virtue of having a better run rate in a rain-curtailed KSCA (Group I) third division league encounter.

The scores: Century Cricketers 284/5 in 50 overs (Ashish Dhar 67, C.K. Akshay 97 n.o., T. Pradeep 47 n.o.,, Rayan Ahmed 4/41) bt Neptune CC 104/3 in 25.2 overs (Rayan Ahmed 28, D.R. Ganesh 47) [On better run rate after rain ended play].

Cavaliers CC 285 in 49.4 overs (Shreyas M. V. Gowda 42, Dheeraj Somaiah 65, Athish Jaikumar 31, Yashas Suresh 34, N. Niranjan 57, M.P. Sirish 3/42, K. Nagendra 5/68) lost to Hammonds CC 280/5 in 44 overs (Tarun Manohar 32, Arvind 110, Dhanush Subramanya 55, Sharana Basava 46 n.o.) [On better run rate after rain ended play].

Visweswarapuram CC (1) 127 in 37.3 overs (Saurabh Srivasthav 58, B. Harsha 3/22, B. Vineeth 4/14) vs. Dooravani Cricketers (1) 59/2 in 16 overs (M. Keerthi 34 n.o.) [Match was interrupted by rain and no further play was possible].

Engrades CC 269 in 50 overs (Karna Surya Vamshi 112, Balu Dilip Kumara 62, Manish Upadhyay 36, Suneel Kashyap Ivaturi 3/53, M. Adhokshaj 5/35) lost to Visweswarampuram CC (2) 155/5 in 26.3 overs (Vicky Patil 47, R. Shishir 51 n.o., Virender Singh Aujla 28 n.o.)[On better run rate after rain ended play].

Hanumanthnagar CC 214/8 in 50 overs (Adarsh V.Hiremath 43, P. Gourav 27, P.S. Vikram 53, Prajwal Prakash 32, Anas Sheikh 39 n.o., Md. Azharuddin 3/48) bt Jolly Cricketers 78 in 29 overs (B.N. Abyudaya Upadhyaya 4/33, Syed Khaja Moinuddin 4/19).

RVCE 276/8 in 50 overs (G.P. Likhith 107 n.o., N. Shreyas 26, K.S. Pavan 29, H.K. Vishwanath 53) bt Malleswaram Gymkhana 130/6 in 30.5 overs (Gyan Somaiah 27, Jay Desai 35 n.o.)[On better run rate after rain ended play].

All-round show by Bhandage; Shivaraj smashes ton

M.S. Bhandage's all-round effort (64 & 4/34) was instrumental in Sir Syed Cricketers' 26-run win over Swastic Union CC (2) in the KSCA Twenty20 tournament.

In another match, S. Shivaraj smashed a century (108, 46b, 9x4, 8x6) as Rajajinagar Cricketers thrashed Zodiac CC by 182 runs.

The scores: Bangalore Occasionals 173/7 in 20 overs (Niranjan 20, Shreehari 74, Rajvir Wadhwa 52 n.o., D. Avinash 4/45) lost to Social Cricketers 174/7 in 19.4 overs (S. Aadarsh Prajwal 47, K.V. Aneesh 41, Nirmith Shashidhar 38).

BUCC (1) 164/4 in 20 overs (Liyan Khan 91) lost to FUCC (2) 169/5 in 20 overs (Ravi Kairav Reddy 33, Shubham Singh 32 n.o., Aarush Mehrotra 26 n.o., Aditya Goyal 3/30).

Rajajinagar Cricketers 270/5 in 20 overs (Nihal Ullal 70, S. Shivaraj 108, Kranthi Kumar 61) bt Zodiac CC 88/8 in 20 overs.

Sir Syed Cricketers 219/5 in 20 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 47, A. Rohan Patil 68, S.J. Nikin Jose 33, M.S. Bhandage 64) bt Swastic Union CC (2) 193 in 19.4 overs (C.A. Karthik 62, S.S. Sujay 56, M.S. Bhandage 4/34, S. Punith 4/38).

Coles CC 186/5 in 20 overs (Dheeraj J.Mohan 73, Rahul Prasanna 42, M.G. Naveen 3/26) lost to Swastic Union CC (1) 187/5 in 19.5 overs (Siddharth 43, Shishir Bhavane 82, Monish Reddy 3/31).

Friends Union CC (1) 211/2 in 20 overs (Stalin Hoover 71, Lochan S.Gowda 72 n.o., G.S. Chiranjeevi 38 n.o.) bt Modern CC 174/7 in 20 overs (Ronak 57).

Jawahar SC (1) 133 in 19.4 overs (Amod S.Kaluve 51, M.B. Darshan 4/32, Karun Nair 3/13) lost to Vultures CC 135/7 in 17.4 overs (Pavan Deshpande 45, Shimon Luiz 3/37).

Chintamani SA 123 in 19.3 overs (Abdul Majid 27, Abhishek Prabhakar 31, Shubhang Hegde 3/17) lost to Cambridge CC 124/5 in 15.1 overs (L.R. Chethana 36, Macneil Hadley Noronha 38, Vinay N.Sagar 30 n.o., Nathan D'mello 3/37).

Natl. coaches course begins

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The ISSF National coaches course for the Indian shooting fraternity began here with a batch of 48 pistol and rifle coaches on Tuesday.

The ISSF has deputed instructors, Ahmed Sief El Din Daoud of Egypt for pistol and Natalya Zhukova of Russia for rifle, to conduct the course.

Olympian Deepak Kumar, experienced coaches Samaresh Jung, Manoj Kumar and Satguru Das were taking the certificate course.

"It is a high profile course for preparing our coaching faculty. It is a major step by NRAI to provide the course free of cost, thanks to the support by Olympic Gold Quest", said NRAI secretary-general Sultan Singh.

Ramkumar-Verdugo duo shown the door

SPORTS BUREAU

Ramkumar Ramanathan and Hans Hack Verdugo were beaten 6-3, 6-3 by third seeds Rajeev Ram and Jack Sock in the pre-quarterfinals of the $792,980 ATP tennis tournament in Atlanta, USA.

Other results: $25,000 ITF women, Nottingham: Singles (first round): Haruka Kaji (Jpn) bt Rutuja Bhosale 6-4, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (first round): Chihiro Takayama (Jpn) bt Tanisha Kashyap 7-6(6), 6-2; Jennifer Luikham bt Beatrice Stagno (Ita) 6-0, 6-3; Feryel Ben Hassen (Tun) bt Akanksha Nitture 7-5, 3-6, 6-2. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Priska Madelyn Nugroho (Ina) & Sijia Wei (Chn) bt Ilaria Sposetti (Ita) & Akanksha Nitture 6-0, 6-0.

$25,000 ITF men, Tbilisi: Singles (first round): Prajnesh Gunneswaran bt Lior Goldenberg (Isr) 6-1, 6-2.

$15,000 ITF men, Kuala Lumpur: Singles (first round): Ryota Tanuma (Jpn) bt Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-4, 6-4; Tsung-Hao Huang (Tpe) bt Madhwin Kamath 6-2, 6-1; Takuya Kumasaka (Jpn) bt Vishnu Vardhan 6-3, 7-6(5).

$15,000 ITF men, Colombo: Singles (first round): Manish Sureshkumar bt Simone Agostini (Ita) 5-7, 6-0, 6-3; Rishi Reddy bt Paras Dahiya 6-2, 6-4; Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Ashen Silva (Sri) 6-3, 6-3; Chathurya Nilaweera (Sri) bt Parikshit Somani 6-7(3), 6-4, 6-4; Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Preston Brown (US) 6-4, 6-1; Siddharth Vishwakarma bt Siddhant Banthia 7-5, 7-6(5); Fardeep Quamar bt Jagmeet Singh 6-4, 6-2; Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) bt Lakshit Sood 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Gourav Gulia & Chandril Sood bt Mohit Bhardwaj & Shahbaaz Khan 6-4, 7-5; SD Prajwal Dev & Rishi Reddy bt Lohithaksha Bathrinath & Tushar Madan 6-4, 4-6, [10-7]; Nitin Kumar Sinha & Siddharth Vishwakarma bt Ashen Silva & Guyanga Weerasekera (Sri) 6-3, 6-1.

$15,000 ITF men, Castelo Branco, Portugal: Singles (first round): Rishab Agarwal bt Goncalo Falcao (Por) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Scott Duncan & Ben Jones (GBR) bt Miguel Garcia (Esp) & Rishab Agarwal 6-1, 6-2.

€67,960 Challenger, El Espinar, Spain: Qualifying singles (first round): Kenny De Schepper (Fra) bt Arjun Kadhe 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-3.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Bengaluru FC recruits Jan van Loon

Bengaluru FC announced the appointment of Dutchman Jan van Loon as the club's new Head of Youth Development.

The 56-year-old, who started his career as a Youth Coach and Coordinator at PSV Eindhoven alongside noted coach Guus Hiddink, has held various positions in the youth development programs at FC Utrecht and Arsenal among other clubs.

Aradhya, Harshini in last eight

Top seeds Aradhya Kshitij and Harshini made safe passages into the quarterfinals at the Nichsolv AITA Super Series U-16 tennis tournament being held at KSLTA, here on Tuesday.

While Aradhya defeated Kaushik Arunkumar 6-1, 6-2, Harshini beat G.D. Meghana 6-0, 6-2.

India can look beyond the bottom line and decide which way the game goes

BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

The IPL is getting ready to take over the world. South Africa cancelled a one-day series against Australia to focus on the launch of their domestic T20 tournament. All six franchises have been bought by owners of IPL teams. Three teams in the Caribbean Premier League are already owned by them, as are three in the UAE's forthcoming T20 league. At least two IPL franchises are in the frame for next year's T20 league in the US.

Is this a watershed moment for the sport? How long before the IPL takes over completely, with a large number of players contracted to (and controlled by) the half-a-dozen franchises? Historically "the death of cricket as we know it" has been a running theme, but will it become reality now? Perhaps this is an extreme position, but is international cricket at a crossroads?

Pulling away from the rest

The International Cricket Council's Future Tours Programme doesn't suggest that – till you examine it closely and realise that in a manner far subtler than was conceived some years ago, India, England and Australia are drawing away from the rest.

India play one of the other two in 20 Tests out of their 38 scheduled for the 2023-2027 period. These are the most lucrative series in world cricket, and television is happier with these than any other (with the exception of an India-Pakistan series which depends on the political winds). The less powerful teams play most of their Tests among themselves, making for two divisions without actually formalising it.

And just to make it all clear, there will be a formal window for the IPL during which period all international cricket is suspended. By 2027, there will be 94 matches in the IPL.

Supporting Test cricket

India have been calling the shots in world cricket for some years now, and on the face of it there isn't anything wrong with that.

Particularly since they have been great supporters of the five-day Test and the five-match Test series and possess the bench strength to play red-ball and white-ball cricket simultaneously in different countries.

But most other countries have neither such a large pool of players to choose from nor sufficient public interest to make this worthwhile. Often cricket is not the No.1 sport.

New Zealand, Ireland and South Africa are rugby nations, the West Indies and Zimbabwe are struggling to attract youngsters to the game while Afghanistan have much catching up to do, and despite their promotion to the highest ranks are hardly treated on a par with others.

This leaves Sri Lanka and Bangladesh where the game remains a passion. But the national teams lack the glamour and record of their neighbours. Outside of their own borders they lack the kind of support that an Indian team commands. India alone have the power to look beyond the bottom line.

Although Test cricket managed with just three teams (England, Australia, South Africa) for the first fifty years of its existence, the world has changed too much and the alternatives have become too many since the 1877-1928 period for that to be practical now. The Ashes, the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and the Pataudi Trophy, however competitive or widely followed cannot by themselves sustain Test match cricket.

The call for reducing if not actually doing away altogether with the one-day international has been getting louder. Logically, if one of the three formats has to be sacrificed it will have to be the ODI. But the 50-over World Cup remains popular. Can you have only a World Cup without any other internationals? The ICC doesn't think so, and have even resurrected the tri-nation tournament.

Top players – Ben Stokes being a recent example – are retiring from one or more of the formats to focus on the remaining. Stokes quit the ODI to focus on Tests. Compatriot Moeen Ali and Sri Lanka's Dhanushka Gunatilake, among others, have travelled in the opposite direction, giving up the red ball game to focus on the white.

So this is the brave new world of cricket. India, already more powerful than the ICC, can, theoretically, bring the whole edifice crashing down on a whim if they are so inclined. The power they wield is extraordinary, and a little scary.

They decide if their players may or may not play any of the other domestic leagues or indeed The Hundred in England. No one dares displease India, whose standing in the game is a tribute both to their long-term planning (even through many legal cases) and acknowledgement of the sheer numbers of eyeballs on TV which convert to billions of dollars.

But is India's enormous success discouraging other nations rather than stimulating their interest in the five-day game? When the bottom line is serviced by T20 cricket – administrators can argue that they are merely giving the public what it wants – something is bound to give.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.: SEE/EE/Tr/W&M/DVG/AEE-2/F-114/22-23/Cys-33 Date: 26.07.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Mode Only)

KPTCL invites e-Tender in the prescribed form from Super Grade Licensed Electrical Contractor for the following works on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**

(1) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)/DVG/EE/AEE-2/22-23/15, date 06.07.2022 for Replacement of age old 11KV PCVCB and MCVCB Switchgears by MCVCB Switchgears at 66/11KV Sub-Station, **Holalkere** in Chitradurga District.

(2) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)/DVG/EE/AEE-2/22-23/19, date 11.07.2022 for Providing new 2 Nos. of additional 11KV PCVCB Switchgears for 66/11KV Station **Bagur** in Chitradurga District.

(3) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)/DVG/EE/AEE-2/22-23/17, date 11.07.2022 for Providing new 4 Nos. of additional 11KV PCVCB Switchgears for 66/11KV Station **Chitrahalli** in Chitradurga District.

(4) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)/DVG/EE/AEE-2/22-23/19, date 11.07.2022 for Providing new 1 No. of additional 11KV PCVCB Switchgears for 66/11KV Station **Neeragunda** in Chitradurga District.

Tenders will be accepted through e-Procurement Mode Only. For further details, prospective Bidders are advised to log on to website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** and click on to hyperlink **e-procurement-kptcl** to participate on e-Procurement Portal **on or after 27.07.2022.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Near Stadium,
Hadadi Road, Davanagere. Ph.: 08192-250774

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
No.: KPCL/2022-23/IND5951/CALL-2 Date:19.07.2022

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only) (Two Cover System)

Sealed Bids are invited in two part system from the reputed manufactures/ Authorised Dealers/ Suppliers for **"Supply of LT Motors for BTPS".** The details of NIT and Brief Bid Notification can be seen on GoK e-portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and Further details can be had from the **Chief Engineer (Thermal Designs),** KPCL, #3, 2nd Floor, Green Building (Drug Control Office Premises), No.3, Palace Road, Bengaluru-560 001. Mobile.: 9449596598, email:cetdkpcl@karnataka.gov.in

Government of Karnataka
Office of the The Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department,
Mandya Division, Mandya, Phone: 08232-222363,
email:eerwsmdy@gmail.com
No:EE/RDW&SD/MDY/21-22JJM TENDER/2022-23/1105
Dated:25-07-2022

(1) Short Term Re-Tender Notification NO-17/2021-22 (Two Cover System) 3rd Call
(2) Short Term Re-Tender Notification NO-20/2021-22 (Two Cover System) 3rd Call
(3) Short TermRe-Tender Notification NO-23/2021-22 (Two Cover System) 3rd Call
(e-procurement portal)

On behalf of Governor of karnataka, The E.E, R.D.W & S Division, Mandya invited tender for Providing FHTCs works in Malavalli & Pandavapura Tq, Mandya District from eligible bidders. Pre-Bid Meeting **Dt: 29.07.2022 Time:11:00 AM (Place:O/O EE, RDWSD, Mandya), Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids:.03.08.2022 Time :05:30 PM, Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening:04.08.2022 Time:05:35 PM,** Date & Time of Financial Bid **Opening:08.08.2022 Time:11:00 AM.** Amount Put to tender Maximum: **Rs.179.15 Lakhs.** More details can be obtained through e-procurement portal of Govt of karnataka **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or from this office during working hours.Phone No: 08232-222363.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Mandya

DIPR/AD-MDY/MC&A/235/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of Health Officer, (R. R. Nagara), Ideal Homes Township, R. R. Nagara, Benglauru - 560 098.
No: (RRN)/PR/132/2022-23 Date: 26.07.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for the following:

Providing Manpower and Equipments to Mosquito control in Rajarajeshwarinagara and Yashavanthapura Division R.R Nagara Zone on outsource basis.

(1) Ward No-16 (Jalahalli), **(2) Ward No-17** (J.P Park) (Reserved for SC), **(3) Ward No-37** (Yashavanthapura), **(4) Ward No-38** (H.M.T), **(5) Ward No-42** (Lakshmidevi Nagara), **(6) Ward No-69** (Laggere) (Reserved for ST) **(7) Ward No-73** (Kottigepalya), **(8) Ward No-129** (Jnanabharathi) **(9) Ward No-160** (Rajarajeshwarinagara) (Reserved for SC), **(10) Ward No-40** (Doddabidarakallu), **(11) Ward No-72** (Herohalli) (Reserved for SC), **(12) Ward No-130** (Ullalu), **(13) Ward No-159** (Kengeri), **(14) Ward No-198** (Hemmigepura) (Reserved for ST), **(15) Ward No-130** (Ullalu, Vishweshwaraiah Layout 01 to 06 Block) **(16)** Providing 2- Auto with 2-driver and 2-Spray man for Mosquito Control Activity (Power Spraying, Fogging, Source Reduction, IEC R.R. Nagara Constituency. **(17)** Providing 2- Auto with 2-driver and 2-Spray man for Mosquito Control Activity (Power Spraying, Fogging, Source Reduction, IEC Yashavanthapura Constituency.

Date of Commencement of Download of Document from eprocurement website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**	From **26.07.2022** onwards
Last Date and Time for Uploading Online Queries in e-Procurement	**28.07.2022** upto **5:30** pm
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting:	**Date: 29.07.2022** Meeting Hall, Joint Commissioner Office (R.R. Nagara), Ideal Homes Township, Rajarajeshwarinagara, Bengaluru - 560098..
Last Date and Time for Uploading tenders in e-Procurement portal	**10.08.2022** upto **5:00** pm
Date and Time of opening of Technical Bid in the E-Portal.	**11.08.2022** at **5:30** pm

1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the Website: **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** 2) Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/-
Health Officer (R.R. Nagara)

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene